

Exit two leaders building a society of blandness



Gorman: daring

WOMEN refresh politics. Who can forget the day when the monumental Baroness Trumpington, baffled by a tricky question from a Labour peer, complained "the noble lord is trying to get my knickers in a twist again?"

Weeks ago, the new Junior Minister at Agriculture, Angela Browning, asked about food labelling, disarmed Layton's hairy class-warrior, Harry Cohen, by calling him a "dear old-fashioned thing". Yesterday, challenged by Richard Spring (C, Bury St Edmunds) to say what she was doing to increase consumption of UK-produced food, she told MPs that she

had eaten so much of it that she had gone up a dress-size already.

She added that on the Continent British food was all the rage. "They seek out British muffs in the capital of France," MPs were so bemused at the thought of the French populace storming into the Bastille for liberty, fraternity and equality, but Marks & Spencer for muffs, that discussion of food production faded out.

Who wants to discuss UK food production, anyway? Long live the MP who tackles the questions we really want answered! Long live Teresa Gorman (C, Billericay) who

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

last week shocked the political establishment by putting into words what none dare admit: that Britain's response to Serbian hostage-taking is "give us our soldiers back and we'll stop bombing you".

Yesterday Mrs Gorman ignored the details of European food policy, doubted whether ministers actually buy their own groceries, and pointed out that if you fly to New York ("admittedly a long way to go shopping") food costs only half

as much. Our prices are "a tip-off". And long live the Prime Minister, who brushed aside a complex inquiry from Tony Blair about the added cost of building society mortgages and announced: "I'm with the Skipton." Well, almost.

Blair had challenged Major to say what would be the cost to homeowners of the new rule that we buy our own mortgage-protection insurance. The Skipton, replied Major, will offer it free. Blair flour-

ished. In confident form, Major drove home the advantage, calling the Labour leader "flummoxed". Blair was on unfamiliar ground. He had come to the Commons to talk about government policy, but found himself in a discussion of the merits of the Skipton's special offer.

Major shines in the role of building society manager. Indeed, had Blair been better briefed, he, too, would convince as a mortgage salesman.

All both men needed was umbrellas and a couple of bowler hats and they could have two-stepped up to the Table: Major playing a reas-

suring Mr Bradford to Tony Blair's enthusiastic Mr Bingley.

Sadly, there was no such duet yesterday. But Blair and Major did leave at the same time, through the same door, and almost in step. Remembering Pitt and Fox in *The Madness of King George*, we could imagine the dialogue:

"Do you enjoy these occasions, Mr Bradford?"

"No, I don't, Mr Bingley."

"Do you enjoy anything, Mr Bradford?"

"A balance sheet, Mr Bingley. I enjoy a good balance sheet."

A fitting comment on our post-Thatcherite times.

Tories' fightback strategy points to imminent tax cuts

Cabinet agrees two-year battle plan for victory

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

A TWO-YEAR battle plan aimed at lifting the Conservatives from the depths of unpopularity to general election victory was set in motion by the Cabinet yesterday.

Every member of the Cabinet contributed to what informed sources described as a "frank, realistic and positive" discussion of the party's current plight, underlined last night by an opinion poll showing it trailing by 39.5 per cent to Labour and Tony Blair as the most popular leader in Opposition has ever had.

In a move that appeared to point to imminent cuts in taxation, ministers agreed that all the substantial milestones between now and the expected election date of spring 1997, including Kenneth Clarke's two Budgets, should be used as part of the fightback strategy.

The discussions yesterday lasted almost two hours and came after the Cabinet's official business had been con-

cluded. It was reported afterwards that the Cabinet had accepted that the Government was perceived as failing to respond to the needs, desires and problems of many ordinary people, and expressed a determination to tackle them.

The new policy formation and campaigning effort will focus on the themes of enterprise and prosperity, opportunity and ownership, law and order, the improvement of the public services and the maintenance of Britain as a sovereign nation.

John Major immediately set the tone over Europe in the Commons with his most sceptical remarks so far about a single currency.

Today he will harden the message with another outspoken attack on Labour's plans for devolution which, he says, will weaken the United Kingdom.

Speaking at the Welsh Conservative conference in Llangollen, North Wales, the

Prime Minister will claim that the Labour Party's stance has been forced on it by fear of the Scottish National Party. Its "half-hearted" proposals for a Welsh assembly would only mean more bureaucracy and more government.

The fightback strategy will also involve a more aggressive approach to Tony Blair and his claims to have modernised the Labour Party.

In a speech at Westminster last night Stephen Dorrell, the National Heritage Secretary, said that all the themes of Mr Blair's so-called new Labour could be found in the traditions of the Left.

"The high-toned rhetoric and empty agenda of Ramsey MacDonald coupled with the financial orthodoxy of Philip Snowden. The slick technocratic appeal to Middle England perfected by Harold Wilson," Mr Dorrell said.

"The constitutional distractions of all Labour leaders. The political correctness and

personal politics of the American liberals. There is little new about any of this."

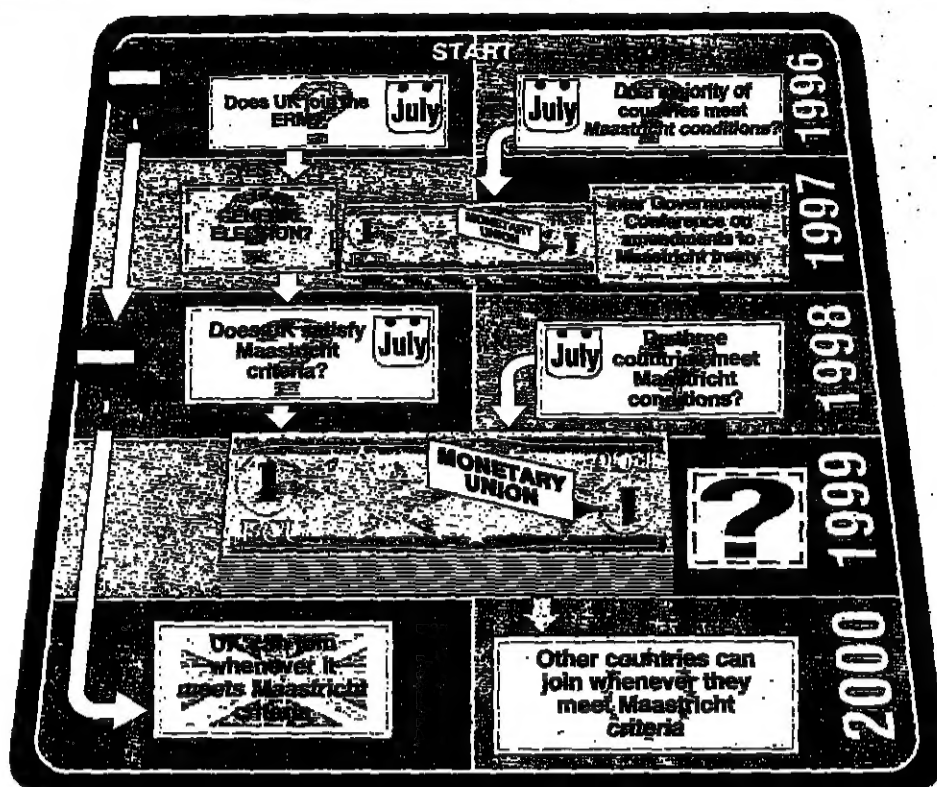
Mr Dorrell said Mr Blair was not modernising his party; he was traditionalising it. "He is taking Labour back to the future."

The Gallup poll in *The Daily Telegraph* today puts Labour on 59.5 per cent, the Tories on 20 per cent, and the Liberal Democrats on 14.5 per cent.

Mr Blair's satisfaction rating, at 68 per cent, is the highest ever, beating Harold Wilson's 67 per cent in November 1963, and Margaret Thatcher's 64 per cent in February 1976.

Labour is also stepping up its pre-election activity. Mr Blair has called all members of the Shadow Cabinet to a special all-day session in London today.

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Anastole Kalesky on a European currency, page 16



Britain 'may never join EMU'

Continued from page 1
report, which reflects solely the views of its authors.

Norman Lamont, the former Chancellor, and Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary, attacked the conclusions of the report. Mr Lamont said that although its

members were distinguished, they were not impartial.

"The practical difficulties with monetary union are immense," he said. "There is no economic justification for taking such huge risks."

Mr Portillo rejected the report's criticism of the British

opt-out from the final stage of monetary union. "The opt-out that John Major took... is the most sensible thing to do."

Kingsdown report said
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Scheme offers free unemployment insurance

Major urges mortgage firms to follow Skipton

By Anne Ashworth

THE Prime Minister rejected calls yesterday to abandon plans to reduce state help for mortgage payments, in spite of renewed fears that replacement private insurance schemes are doomed to failure.

As a report by the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux said reliance on mortgage insurance policies was fraught with risk, Mr Major demanded "a high-quality comprehensive system of mortgage insurance" and urged mortgage lenders to offer borrowers free insurance against unemployment.

Speaking at Prime Minister's Questions, Mr Major urged lenders to take action themselves to offer insurance schemes for borrowers, citing the "best practice" of the Skipton Building Society, which announced yesterday that it will be providing free unemployment insurance cover to its 55,000 borrowers, almost regardless of their employment, with effect from October.

The cover, which will cost the society, the 16th largest, more than £2 million a year, is underwritten by the American-owned insurance company ITT London & Edinburgh, a big player in the credit protection business.

The Skipton's move follows considerable resistance by lenders to the Government's proposals for the reduction in income support, due to take effect in October. Lenders have been arguing that mil-

lions of borrowers would be ineligible for mortgage protection insurance, which is being promoted by the Government as the replacement to the state safety net.

The wide scope of the Skipton policy reinforces claims made earlier this week by Tony Baker, Deputy Director General of the Association of British Insurers, that insurance groups were refining and developing their mortgage protection policies to suit the changes in the market.

Major leaders, such as the Halifax, conceded that it



would also be possible for them to organise similar blanket policies, but not before the October deadline. However, they continued to emphasise that not every risk could be covered.

Skipton borrowers who lose their jobs will be entitled to submit claims after two months and to receive payments for seven months. At the end of this period, mortgage income support for new borrowers will become payable under the proposals put forward by the Department of Social Security.

Most unusually, ITT

London & Edinburgh is prepared to insure people on short-term contracts, so long as those contracts have been renewed more than twice.

These employees, who represent an increasing percentage of the workforce have, in the past, been refused mortgage protection cover. They are among the five million homeowners, estimated to be ineligible for this type of mortgage cover in a Department of Environment report published last month.

The self-employed will also be covered, although they will be able to claim on their policies only if they have ceased trading, and have sent the appropriate notice to the Inland Revenue.

John Goodfellow, chief executive of the Skipton, was yesterday critical of other lenders which have mounted a campaign of resistance against the Government's income support proposals.

He said: "Few if any of the responses from the industry have indicated a willingness to work in the interests of the customer, when, in this case, they are the same of the interests of the lender. I do not intend to stand by and allow my borrowers to suffer up to nine months arrears before they receive assistance."

Ron McCormick, the Skipton's finance director, added that the society hoped that the expense of running the scheme would be counterbalanced by lower provisions for bad debts.

Britain attacked over dumping of oil platform

FROM NICK NUTTALL IN ESBJERG

MINISTERS from five European nations and the European Commission, yesterday called Britain's plan to dump the Brent Spar platform "an act of environmental vandalism" which future generations will find hard to forgive.

Ritt Bjerregaard, the Commission's Danish environment commissioner, told the North Sea Conference: "Such practices cannot be accepted. The international community must speak with one voice. The dumping of oil installations must be banned."

She accused John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, of "sending a political signal that the sea may be used as a rubbish dump". Mrs Bjerregaard said America no longer approved of dumping.

Britain was making a mockery of the millions of people across Europe who tried to conserve resources and improve the environment by recycling everything from glass to paper.

Her attack was backed by Denmark, Belgium, Sweden, the Netherlands and Germany, which are insisting that all old installations are brought back to land and recycled with their toxic wastes safely removed.

Mr Gummer, who was late arriving for the conference yesterday, rejected claims that Britain was damaging the seas with its policy on oil installations. He said: "There are two ways of getting oil out of the North Sea. One is the British way to drill for it and

the other is the Danish way. They scrape the fish up to turn it into fish oil and burn it in a power station."

Mr Gummer was referring to Denmark's industrial fishery where up to two million sand eels are taken from the North Sea for processing into fuel and animal feed.

He said that the disposal of the Brent Spar had been agreed under international rules to which all the nations at the conference had agreed. The Danish way "left death and destruction behind interfering with the ecological cycle of the North Sea resulting in damage to fish stocks."

Critics fear the Brent Spar sets a precedent for the disposal of up to 50 big rigs and platforms if it is allowed. Privately, Mr Gummer has expressed concern about dumping the platform.

The Trade and Industry Department insists that every installation will be treated on a case-by-case basis and that the Brent Spar is too dangerous to workers to be brought on shore. The cost of disposal on land is also about £40 million, compared with about £11 million for dumping at sea.

The Netherlands, which has a small offshore gas industry, is also demanding a ban on the production of the toxic muds that collect at the base of oil rigs during drilling. The latest figures show that the industry is producing about 3,820 tonnes of these each year.

Tests to find bad teachers planned

Proposals to identify incompetent teachers by introducing practical tests for trainees are being considered by a new government watchdog. Veteran teachers would also have to prove their worth at regular intervals or face retraining.

The Teacher Training Agency, which controls an annual training budget of more than £500 million, is drawing up a package of measures to tackle the hard core of bad teachers who blight thousands of pupils' education. Almost one third of lessons are judged sub-standard by inspectors each year.

Pay pledge

Labour issued a fresh call for a national minimum wage yesterday, declaring that it would save the taxpayer up to £2.4 billion a year paid in benefits to people on low pay. Harriet Harman, the Shadow Employment Secretary, said every taxpayer was paying £100 a year to subsidise low-pay employers. Labour would put a floor under wages, she added.

Trial challenge

Matthew Simmons, the football fan attacked by Eric Cantona at Crystal Palace, who faces charges of using threatening words and behaviour, was given permission by the High Court to seek judicial review of a decision by Croydon magistrates to continue with his trial. He claims he could not receive a fair hearing because of publicity.

Sentence cut

Michael Smith, an electronics engineer serving 25 years for selling secrets to Russia, lost his appeal against conviction but had his sentence cut to 20 years. The Court of Appeal said Smith, 46, of Kingston upon Thames, southwest London, was not in the "highest league" of espionage and there was no evidence he had endangered the lives of British agents.

Shooting victim

A 22-year-old man became the latest victim of the spate of shootings in Liverpool when he was wounded in a daylight ambush in Toxteth yesterday. He had emergency surgery at the Royal Liverpool Hospital after one of four bullets fired at him entered his side and emerged through his chest. His condition was later said to be comfortable.

New quarry plan

Islanders on Harris, who successfully campaigned against a proposed quarry at Lingerby in the south of the island, face a new plan by Scottish Aggregates to create a 175-acre quarry at Loch Seaforth in the north. The company wants to extract up to five million tonnes of aggregate a year from total reserves of 170 million tonnes.

Rugby award

A rugby union club has been awarded £134,000 from the national lottery fund partly to help develop the women's game, although the midlands club does not have any female playing members. Rival clubs were yesterday upset that Wellingborough had received the money to build a new clubhouse and provide separate facilities for men and women.

Stones' thanks

The Rolling Stones will play in a factory car park to thank their sponsors, Volkswagen. Sixty thousand workers for the German carmaker will see the gig at Wolfsburg on August 25 as part of the group's Voodoo Lounge tour. Volkswagen paid £6 million for the 135-date tour and 100,000 VW Golf cars are expected to be sold with Voodoo Lounge logos.

The Power of Love

AN EXHIBITION of antique betrothal rings from the 15th century to the present day at Bentley & Co., 8 New Bond Street, London W1, 10am - 5pm until Saturday 24th June, admission free. Bentleys buy and sell the loveliest jewellery. For a complimentary copy of *The Bentley Collection*, an illustrated compendium of fine jewels for sale please telephone 0171 629 0651.

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Nurses near deal

Continued from page 1
omley I am absolutely appalled," Margaret Beckett, the Shadow Health Secretary, was also sceptical. "Low pay is still a danger. It is still on the agenda and we are still opposed to it," she said.

The Health Department moved swiftly last night to try to reassure managers that the Government was not ditching local pay bargaining. Ken Jarrold, the NHS director of human resources, wrote to chief executives of NHS trusts restating ministers' commitment to local pay.

The RCN hinted last night that it might end its boycott of local pay deals, claiming the

Government had met most of its demands. Latest evidence given to the college shows that a total of 346 trusts have made pay offers, 85 per cent for 3 per cent or more. However more than half of these have strings attached relating to terms and conditions, which the RCN now hopes will be largely removed.

Hospital consultants are close to agreeing a scheme that will give NHS trusts more power to determine their pay. Under the scheme, the top of the consultant's salary scale would be extended from its present £52,000 to £62,000.

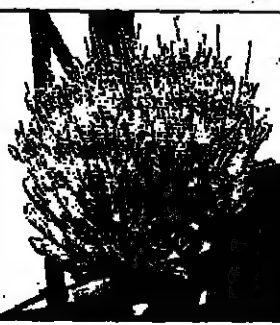
Doctors' threat, page 4.

Flowering century cactus lives up to its reputation

A RARE cactus has delighted botanists by flowering for the first time in 99 years.

The South American Century Plant last blossomed in 1896 several years after it was given to Oxford University's Botanic Gardens by Victorian travellers. Since then the 3ft high plant - botanical name *Agave americana* - has stood unobtrusively in the cactus house.

Staff hoped it would bloom again before the year 2000 but were delighted when the plant, which developed a 12ft high spike in the autumn,



The cactus in flower

suddenly flowered last week. Experts believe it was spurred into action when a

ventilation system broke down and the glass house overheated.

Horticultural enthusiasts have flocked to the gardens to view the cactus and its hundreds of tiny white and yellow blooms. The only other known Century Plant in Britain is in Edinburgh's Botanic Gardens and is not expected to flower for 50 years.

Anna Toeman, 22, who tends the plant, said: "It is all very exciting as we had no idea when the plant was going to flower."

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Physician's biographer names drugs

Churchill 'took amphetamines and barbiturates'

BY ANDREW PIERCE

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL, who was renowned for his alcohol intake, regularly took amphetamines and barbiturates according to his personal physician's biographer. A doctor who treated him said they were to help him to "get through the night and day".

A test dose of amphetamines was prescribed to Sir Winston a few days before his keynote speech to the Tory party conference in Margate in October 1953. After a stroke earlier in the year, he feared he would not be able to complete the speech. However, after taking a pill containing amphetamines, it went down well.

Professor Richard Lovell, biographer of Lord Moran, makes the claim today in a letter to the *British Medical Journal*. He says that the wartime leader began to take barbiturates in 1940 to help him to sleep, and the stimulant amphetamines after the stroke. They are now controlled drugs.

His decision to identify the drugs, referred to in biographies by nicknames such as "Moran", "Minors" or "Reds", was attacked last night by the only surviving doctor to have treated Sir Winston. Lord Richardson, 84, a former president of the General Medical Council, said: "These things are better left alone. I administered to Sir Winston at Chartwell and his London home in the last years of his life when he was not on these drugs. I would have known."

"He was prescribed them when he was in public life to help him get through the night and day. It has never been spelt out before because the details are private and should remain so."

"It is wrong to drag it up now, especially as everyone knows he drank heavily. He always had a glass in his hand and a cigar, even when I saw him in bed. The mixture clearly worked for him."

Sir Winston, who drank whisky and soda after breakfast, champagne for lunch washed down by brandy, and whisky and champagne at night, said of his drinking habits: "I have taken more out of alcohol than alcohol has taken out of me."

Anthony Montague Browne, 72, Sir Winston's private secretary for the last 15 years of his life, said the drugs were not administered every day. "A lot of prime ministers probably take sleeping pills. These drugs were not controlled then. They were perfectly respectable."

Mr Montague Browne retains in his newly published memoirs of Sir Winston's last years, *The Long Sunset*, from giving the drugs their proper names. He denies that there has been a cover-up. "It would not have caused a stir then if it had been known and it should not now. He was an old man. I never named them, and I suspect others felt the same, because I did not think it important."

Professor Lovell, in his letter to the *British Medical Journal*, says that he did not divulge the details in his 1992 book, *Churchill's Doctor: A*

Biography of Lord Moran, because they had not been publicly mentioned before.

He said last night: "Some of the drugs, which used aspirin to try to ward off the onset of strokes, have become of interest to medical historians so I decided to try to name them. Lady Soames, Sir Winston's daughter, and the current Lord Moran, agreed. Amphetamines could bring great benefits today."

Sir Winston would have agreed. Having consumed a box of opium, a mouthful of steak and half a glass of champagne before the 1953 trial run, he told Lord Moran: "I took your pill at 1pm. It was a great success. It cleared my head and gave me great confidence. Then promptly at 2pm I got to my feet and went through my speech in 36.5 minutes. I know now I can stand that time."

Andrew Roberts, the author of *The Churchills*, said: "It's a great advertisement for amphetamines and Sir Winston. John Major should try them to improve his performance."

Mr Montague Browne added: "Churchill had sleeping pills and stimulants which were perfectly respectable. At the time I did not know they were amphetamines. He occasionally took them when he was going to make a speech."

"It is all perfectly true and all perfectly honest. They were like taking an aspirin. It is nonsense to suggest the mixture of the pills and alcohol could have affected him. His drinking habits have been greatly exaggerated. He did not drink excessively."

Lord Richardson, a former editor-in-chief of the *British Encyclopedia Medical Practice*, said that Sir Winston was his most impressive patient. "If he had asked to go back on the amphetamines I would not have hesitated." However, he added: "I would never have dreamt of discussing it with anyone."



Sir Winston: impressed



Police, who describe Wayne Black as extremely dangerous, found this mask and pair of handcuffs with his gang

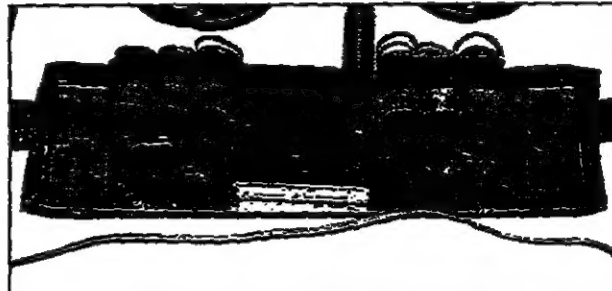
Kidnapper flees from jail van before jury finds him guilty

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

A DANGEROUS kidnapper was on the run last night after he escaped from a prison van while on trial at the Old Bailey. Wayne Black, a member of a gang calling itself The Professionals, had plotted to take a shop manageress hostage and threaten to turn her into a "human bomb" by strapping a fake device around her waist.

They also stole £200,000 in jewellery from a shop by taking the family of a staff member hostage. Black's escape plunged the prison service into fresh controversy because he was a Category A prisoner who had been on remand in a special unit at Belmarsh jail in southeast London.

He is the fourth category A prisoner to escape from custody this year and his disappearance will renew concern about security throughout the prison system as well as fuelling speculation about the position of Derek Lewis, the service's



The fake bomb the gang intended to use

director-general. Black, 27, from Stoke Newington, north London, was convicted in his absence yesterday at the end of an 11-week trial of robbery, kidnap and false imprisonment. Two other members of the gang were jailed for a total of 30 years.

Black, described by police as "extremely dangerous with nothing to lose", escaped in Rotherhithe, southeast London at 5pm on Monday as he was being driven from the Old Bailey to Belmarsh prison.

He fled shortly before the jury went out to consider its verdict. Jurors at the Old Bailey trial, who had been given round-the-clock protection to prevent any attempt to "noble them", were not told of his escape until after they returned their verdicts. He was one of two men in a prison vehicle which contained three officers. There was no police escort in spite of Black's reputation as a violent man.

One of the men produced a homemade knife and a toothbrush which contained a razor blade. The knife was held at an officer's throat and the prisoners threatened to slit it if he was not released. Black and a second prisoner escaped

through an emergency hatch. The man who escaped with him was recaptured near by. A Prison Service spokeswoman refused to say whether the men were handcuffed.

Scotland Yard said that Black was dangerous and should not be approached. He is 6ft 4in tall and heavily built with fair hair.

Yesterday the jury at the Old Bailey found three members of the gang guilty of involvement in a robbery at a jewellers in Golders Green, James Lawson, 37, of Kilburn, northwest London, Black's accomplice in the violent robbery, was jailed for 18 years.

Jamie Batell, 30, of Whistler Street, Islington, north London received 12 years for conspiracy to kidnap, conspiracy to rob and having a firearm with intent. As he was led to the cells, Batell shouted at his sobbing mother: "Mum, mum, I'll be out in six."

A fourth defendant, Steven Ramadan, 30, was cleared but returned to custody as he is serving ten years for other unrelated robberies.

Cats help scientists to unlock the secret of sleep

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

SCIENTISTS believe they have discovered the secret of going to sleep. The findings could lead to a natural sleeping pill safer than any on the market.

American researchers kept cats awake and isolated from their brains a substance that was telling them to go to sleep. This "sleep factor", when synthesised and injected into rats, put them into a peaceful and natural sleep.

According to Scripps Research Institute at La Jolla, California, the evidence is that the same compound may control sleep in humans. "A new, natural source for a sleep modulating substance may be at hand," the institute says.

The search for a sleep factor has been conducted for more than 20 years. The evidence that it existed came from work at Harvard Medical School in the 1970s. Research there showed that fluid taken from the brains of animals that were tired could induce sleep when injected into other animals.

This is the first time, however, that the active ingredient has been isolated and synthesised. Writing in *Science*, the Scripps team says that the substance, cis-9,10-octadecanamide, acts as a signal, telling the brain it is time for sleep. The amounts increase during the day until they trigger the process of going to sleep.

The researchers extracted fluid from the spinal column of cats which had been artificially kept awake. This fluid, which fills the brain and spinal cord, was analysed and a series of chemicals called fatty acid primary amides was identified. A synthetic version of cis-9,10-octadecanamide was the only one that induced sleep in rats.

"It put them to sleep in a remarkably natural manner," says Dr Steven Henrichsen, the senior sleep physiologist on the team. While a lot more work will be needed, the research may point the way to better sleeping pills. Drug companies are likely to take a considerable interest.

Souness denies he domineered former wife

BY KATHERYN KNIGHT

GRAEME SOUNESS saw his ex-wife as a domestic appendage to his successful career, it was alleged at the High Court yesterday. George Carman, QC, for Mirror Group Newspapers, suggested to Mr Souness, 42, the former Liverpool manager who is now married to Karen Levy, 35, a former model and actress, that the reason Danielle Souness left him in 1988 after ten years of marriage was because she felt consistently undermined by his attitude to her.

Mr Carman told the jury on the third day of a libel trial that Mrs Souness, 39, had wanted to open a business in Edinburgh while her husband was player-manager at Glasgow Rangers. "You said, 'Who's going to be there to cook my dinner?'"

Mr Carman told the court that Mr Souness had issued a series of "dictatorial and domineering" letters to his ex-wife over two years ordering her to get out of the home he had bought for her and the children in Surrey. This culminated in an eviction notice served in November 1992.

Mr Souness said: "I have never thrown my ex-wife out of the home. Everything becomes conditional with her—the game changes week to week. We had agreed she would sign a tenancy agreement and then she didn't. That's my ex-wife."

Mr Souness, who arranged

a separation agreement worth about £1 million to his wife, denied threatening her and said she was a wealthy woman in her own right. Mr Carman said that when she talked to *The People* in May 1993, Mrs Souness was desperate because Mr Souness refused to give her money for the children. Mr Souness replied: "She has never been desperate from the day she was born to today."

Mr Souness said he was brought up in a prebend and had worked for everything he had got. Mr Carman asked: "Everyone in this courtroom has worked for what they've got." Looking at his ex-wife, Mr Souness said: "Well, I can point to one who's not, sir."

Under re-examination from his counsel, Lord Williams, QC, Mr Souness said he felt raw and exposed in court but had been left with no choice but to put his side of the story. "If I had come here, that headline would have lived with me for ever."

Mr Souness is seeking damages from Mirror Group Newspapers after *The People* carried a front page interview with his ex-wife in which she claimed he behaved like a "dirty rat" to his children, and had told her to "get stuffed" when she asked him for money for the family. Mirror Group Newspapers denies libel.

The case continues.

Dancer 'too old at 34' claims unfair dismissal

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A DANCER with the English National Ballet was sacked because he was too short and too old, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Darryl Norton, 34, a 5ft 7in soloist, was made to take a final bow by the new artistic director, Derek Deane, after 12 years with the company. He is claiming unfair dismissal.

The hearing was told that Mr Deane, a former senior principal dancer with the Royal Ballet who had performed with the world's leading ballerinas, told Mr Norton at a meeting in July 1993 that he had to improve.

He told him: "I want to bring young kids into the company. I am into youth, I am into bodies, I am into a certain type of look." Two



Norton: senior soloist

months later Mr Norton, who became senior soloist in 1986, was told that his one-year contract would not be renewed and he left last year.

Mr Deane, who had not realised he was being tape-recorded, admitted that he had made the comments and added in evidence: "Dance is for the young. Some dancers have long careers but very few go beyond 30 or 40. I don't think his age was the biggest problem. But it was a factor."

When asked why he had dismissed Mr Norton, Mr Deane said: "There wasn't anything exceptional in his work."

Mr Norton performed solo roles in Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* at the Royal Festival Hall at Christmas 1993. He also played major roles in *Romeo and Juliet* and *Sleeping Beauty* in summer 1993. But Mr Deane had told him that he needed to improve virtually every aspect of his dancing.

Mr Norton, of Mitcham, south London, told the hearing in central London that he had no difficulty lifting ballerinas of similar height. He had hoped to continue dancing for another two years. "We weren't sure what Derek Deane wanted when he arrived and he made a variety of changes," Mr Norton said. "A lot of gifted dancers, I felt, were given the push." Judgment in the case was reserved.

Derby falls flat for corporate hosts

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THERE is likely to be a different crowd at the Derby this year. Many companies and public relations organisations that have traditionally taken parties to a midweek Derby, run until this year on a Wednesday, have abandoned the day out now that the event has been shifted to Saturday.

It is not only corporate hosts who prefer to do their racing in work hours rather than at the weekend.

Members of London's Garrick Club, who have in former years filled two

open-topped buses for their Derby outing, were so disinclined to repeat the excursion this year that the plan has been abandoned.

Simon Marcantonio, spokesman for United Racecourses, which owns Epsom and took the decision to shift the flat's premier classic to a Saturday, insisted that the crowd attending the race would be as large and keen as ever.

"All 50 private boxes, at prices from £8,000 to £16,000 for the day, were sold before the end of February and the restaurant has been fully booked for Derby day since the beginning of

March," he said. "They would not have been fully booked so early in previous years. It has simply not happened at all that there is any decline in the popularity of the event. When we made the change it was to make it more consumer friendly, and to give the Derby, the greatest race of the year, back to the people."

"Saturday is the day when most people have leisure to go to the races, and there is a mixture of private individuals and companies who are as keen as ever to entertain. There is still no better place to do it than Epsom on Derby day."

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Doctors threaten industrial action over pay deal

DOCTORS' leaders threatened industrial action over payments for night visits yesterday after GPs rejected by four to one the Government's latest offer.

In a move that could signal the end of the 24-hour service provided by family doctors, their leaders demanded that they be given an unconditional right to opt out of providing night cover. This could open the way to private medical companies or NHS trust hospitals tendering to run out-of-hours services.

In a postal ballot returned by 25,000 GPs - 77 per cent of the total - 83 per cent voted to reject the offer made by the Government to redistribute current payments. This would have amounted to £2,000 per GP per year plus £20 a night visit, regardless of whether

■ GPs believe that increasing demands by patients for out-of-hours care are harming the rest of the service. They want to be able to opt out of 24-hour cover, reports Jeremy Laurance

this was carried out by the patient's GP or a deputy. In addition, £45 million would be provided to fund new out-of-hours arrangements. The British Medical Association had asked for £100 million. The Government said this was its final offer.

Dr Ian Bogle, chairman of the general medical services committee of GPs within the BMA, said the "overwhelming" vote was a "damning verdict on the relations between the Government and family doctors." "The Government boasts

that the NHS is changing to become a primary care-led service. How it can treat the people who are leading that change like this I do not know. GPs are drowning under paperwork, hidebound by bureaucracy and restricted by checks and balances that are insulating."

He said BMA leaders would make "one last effort" to resolve the dispute by negotiation but if that failed they would hold a ballot on industrial action. "If we have to pursue a sanctions route then the only way forward may be to move

away from our existing [24-hour] contract," Dr Bogle said.

Doctors claim that the increasing demand of providing night cover is threatening the quality of the service they provide during the day. Night visits have increased five fold in the past 25 years and have doubled in the past three years. The British Medical Association says there is "no medical basis" for the increase and blames the growth of the 24-hour culture, with supermarkets open on Sundays, and the rise in consumerism fostered by government initiatives such as the Patient's Charter.

Doctors complain that they are receiving an increasing number of trivial night calls. Examples include patients who have run out of tampons or lost the key to the medicine cabinet. A BMA survey

two years ago found that three-quarters of GPs wanted to opt out of their night work altogether. Most reported that they were on duty at least one weekend in four and one night a week.

They argue that, for every two or three patients who benefit from a night visit, 20 or 30 get a sub-standard service from an overtired doctor in the surgery the next day. They also resent having to stay alert, and sober, in case a patient calls.

Increasing numbers have contracted out their night work to commercial deputising services. More than half of GPs in urban areas now use the services to do at least part of their out-of-hours work.

Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, argues that patients



Bottomley: resists locums

prefer a more personal service and has sought to limit the growth of deputising services. She says that visiting a family at a moment of crisis at home is an important part

of continuing care, improves understanding and cements the doctor-patient relationship.

In 1990 the Government introduced a two-tier night fee. If the patient's own GP or one working in a small rota makes the visit they are paid £47.85; if the visit is made by a deputising service or a GP in a larger rota the sum is £15.95.

However, since the new payments were introduced the bill for night visits has quadrupled to £82 million. Last May ministers announced that they would rewrite the rules to make it clear that GPs could refuse to visit patients in their homes and give advice over the telephone or ask the patient to visit the surgery.

Doctors' anger, page 1
Libby Purves, page 15

Changing face of all-hours care: how social and domestic pressures undermine GP's traditional role

'Some people seem to think we're like dial-a-pizza'

By Lucy Berrington

THE traditional vision of the family doctor providing round-the-clock care has almost faded from the mind of many young inner-city GPs.

Dr Paddy Glackin, 29, a partner in a handholding practice in Kilburn, northwest London, said that night calls cost doctors and patients a good deal more than they gave. He said: "The most frightening thing, which happens when you're really tired, is that you start to feel under

INNER CITY

threat: 'If I don't sleep soon, I don't know what I'm going to do.' Then you hear somebody's going to hospital and for a second you think, 'Please God, maybe they'll die. Maybe they'll die and I won't have to go'."

Dr Glackin has already seen contemporaries drop out, physically and emotionally spent, in the few years since graduating from medical school. In two years, the vision that brought him to general practice has been blurred by tiredness and fear. When he is

called out in the dark, he goes to one of the most deprived local authority wards in Britain, a maze of decaying 1960s tower blocks draped in nets to catch falling masonry. He passes crack cocaine dealers in stairwells and knows that a GP was down to hospital after being stabbed in the chest in these flats.

He said: "You never sleep well on call. You can't relax. You've been working all night and it's two o'clock and you're wrecked. You've got everything settled, pull back the bed covers and the phone rings."

The interruptions inevitably reduce the quality of day care, he said. "Night calls are not fair to people who make appointments for ongoing conditions. You're shamed. You can handle day patients in a superficial way but it's difficult to give the concentration and effort they deserve. You lose an opportunity for health education or looking at the underlying causes."

Many of the call-outs are unnecessary, such as the recent summons in the early hours from a patient who had missed a daytime appoint-



Paddy Glackin fears muggers in city tower blocks. Alan Lloyd-Smith finds that rural visits are still rewarding

ment and wanted a repeat prescription. "Some people think we're like dial-a-pizza," he said. "There's always things that could have waited, but you have a demanding, or very anxious or melodramatic patient. Often you can in conscience just give telephone advice."

The most palatable option,

he said, would be to direct night calls to a health centre operating a rota of up to 50 GPs. Every week one doctor would take a turn at night surgery and two would accept after-hours house calls.

The risk of assault adds to the hazards of night calls. Dr Glackin's colleagues, both women, delegated their night



duties to locums after a patient threatened to throw one of them through an eighth-floor window. Even male GPs are targets. He dresses inconspicuously in a T-shirt, denim jacket and jeans, carrying a tennis racket and a wallet. He carries a medical bag and a mobile phone.

"I phone first to get a rough

idea what's going on, and put my stethoscope in my inside pocket. I don't want to advertise the fact that I'm a doctor. I've got a prescription pad, and they're aware you have morphine and Valium. All these have street value. Plus there's a good chance you'll have money, credit cards, wallets. Doctors are sitting ducks."

Offer of £20 'is an insult for saving a life'

DOCTORS at the Ivy Court practice in Tenterden, Kent, believe that night visits are an essential part of general practice (Jeremy Laurance writes).

They have resisted overtures to join a local co-operative of GPs to share the out-of-hours workload, preferring to make the visits themselves. The five partners in the practice are on call one night a week and one weekend in five.

Dr Alan Lloyd-Smith said: "We realise ours is a minority view but we have always felt that we want to provide a complete primary care ser-

vice. We have a direct, close relationship with our patients which they value and they respond by being nice and kind to us."

"Late at night a patient who is worried and unwell is at their most vulnerable. It is helpful to them to see someone familiar and the doctor has an opportunity during those few minutes to establish the relationship. It can be a formative moment for both of them and it may be repaid in the longer term when the patient remembers how they were dealt with at that time of crisis."

Dr Lloyd-Smith, who has

been in practice for 17 years, said he often saw "real medicine" at night and dealt with genuine problems he could follow up later. "Picking up the pieces from other doctors can be confusing and lead to anger and distress for the patient," he said.

He acknowledged, however, that demands had grown. In the early 1980s he was called out of bed every third Tuesday. Now it is every other Tuesday.

"There are times when you have to bite your lip because you feel abused. But there are other times when it is exciting and you are able to help someone a lot, and that is very rewarding."

"When you are driving round on visits late at night and you have a busy day ahead it can be difficult. But my view is the benefits outweigh the disadvantages."

Dr Lloyd-Smith said he had voted against the Government's offer of a flat payment of £2,000 a year plus £20 a visit because it was an insult. However, he would continue to make night visits even if nothing was paid for them.

"If you are called by a terrified patient and drive 10 or 15 miles maybe on a winter night and you have to make a decision there and then that may save their life. £20 is an insult for that."

Early starts disrupt family routine



Dr Penny Schofield

FOUR thousand patients in Newcastle are served by the GP practice run by Dr Penny Schofield and a female partner. Dr Schofield is married to a GP and has four children, aged six to eleven (Emma Wilkins writes).

Her normal hours are 8.30am to 6.30pm. One day a week she is on call for an additional 5½ hours until midnight, and two or three mornings a week she is on call from 7am, when the deputising service ends.

The morning calls cause most problems for Dr Schofield, 47. "It's quite disruptive of the family because it's just at the time when the children are getting ready for school

and my husband is setting off for work," she said. "It can get pretty hectic and it is tempting to try to get people to wait until surgery starts."

"Because my husband is a GP, too, and has to do one night till midnight, that means the children are with-

WOMEN

out one of us for two nights a week."

She is not worried about her personal safety on night calls, but her car has been vandalised several times. "When I am inside someone's house and it is a rough area, I do worry about the car

and it can be difficult to concentrate."

Dr Schofield, who qualified 19 years ago, is trying to teach patients that many symptoms can be cured without calling out a doctor. "The most irritating call is the one that comes just after surgery has closed from a parent worried about a child with a sore throat. They leave it until after surgery because they think that will mean a doctor comes to their house, gives them a prescription and solves the problem."

"We are now trying to educate patients that many symptoms do not need a doctor there; they can be solved over the telephone."

Late finishes prompted job switch



Dr Chris Williams

DR CHRIS WILLIAMS is a full-time duty doctor at Healthcall, which provides after-hours and weekend coverage for GPs. After leaving a GP partnership two years ago, Dr Williams chose to work for the service because it provides regular work with shifts that end at a fixed time (Emma Wilkins writes).

"I left general practice because I was getting increasingly frustrated at the amount of extra time we were being required to work out of hours," he said. "Now I choose to work 12-hour shifts from 7pm to 7am and I know for certain that I do not need to work beyond that."

The arrangement means he

is able to fulfil outside commitments. He works voluntarily for a hospice near his home in Billericay, Essex, and develops his specialist interest in rheumatology.

Dr Williams, 39, who earns more than £40,000 a year for a 48-hour week, said the duty

doctor role had some disadvantages. "The main problem is that you don't know the patients terribly well. Often they say all the details of their condition are in their notes, which you don't have."

"The only information you have is what the patient tells you and if they are in severe pain they may not remember, for example, that the last time they had an injection it caused an allergic reaction."

Some callers do not require emergency treatment and telephone the out-of-hours service for no reason. Dr Williams said: "There are some oddball callers who ring up in the middle of the night just for the sake of it. But there are abusers of all systems."

The most common emergency calls recently have been from patients worried about meningitis. "People want reassurance that their aches and pains are not meningitis, and who can blame them - that is what we are here for."

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مكتبة الشارقة

Psychologists voice concern over how much television toddlers are exposed to alone

Watch with mother a rare treat for pre-school children

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CHILDREN aged two and three years old watch more than 18 hours of television a week and do 80 per cent of their viewing without an adult in the room, according to new research.

The first comprehensive survey into the viewing habits of British pre-school children also shows that children learn to discriminate between programmes at an early age.

While just 27 per cent of two to three-year-olds select the programmes they watch themselves, the figure rises to 54 per cent by the time they reach the age of four.

Mike Gull, sales controller of the breakfast station GMTV, which commissioned the research, said that the findings also suggested that differences determined by sex emerged early.

"As a rule of thumb, we found that girls are prepared to watch programmes aimed

at boys, such as *Goof Troop* and *Power Rangers*, but boys do not like so-called girls' programmes such as *Little Mermaid*," he said.

According to the research, 78 per cent of mothers of pre-school children said that they often used the television to occupy their child while they did other things. "Television seems to have become a kind of electronic babysitter," Mr Gull said.

"The concept of 'watching with mother' is something of a luxury for mothers today. There is very little difference between working and non-working women."

Child psychologists yesterday expressed concern about the amount of viewing toddlers do on their own.

Professor Charles Desforges, a child psychologist at Exeter University's education department, said: "Two and three-year-olds are

phenomenally good listeners and are learning language in a very sophisticated way. But they do this best in a social context and it's not good for them to spend large amounts of time on their own."

Professor Rudolph Schaffer, a developmental psychologist at the University of Strathclyde, said: "The most productive use of television at that age is in turning it into a social dialogue. There ought to be an adult there to talk to the children about what is going on."

The GMTV research was based on viewing diaries kept by the mothers of 250 two to three-year-olds during two weeks last December. It was supplemented by information from a survey of children aged five to 11.

GMTV is now setting up a panel of viewers, including 500 children aged two to 15, to research their viewing habits.



Oliver Gross, 2, reacts to *Sesame Street*: children have been found to recognise programmes at an early age

The information will be used by advertisers promoting children's toys.

"We wanted to be able to say to the toy industry, this is how many kids of a certain age are watching different programmes," Mr Gull said.

ITV accounts for by far the

biggest share of toddlers' viewing: 35 per cent compared with 14 per cent for the BBC1.

"TV shows more cartoons than the BBC and that is what two and three-year-olds prefer to watch. It's not until they get older that children start appreciating live action things such

as *Grange Hill* on the BBC," Mr Gull said.

The survey also found that nearly 20 per cent of all viewing by pre-school children was of pre-recorded videos. Fifty-seven per cent of two and three-year-olds were able to put on their favourite videos

without help from an adult.

There have been no previous attempts scientifically to monitor the television habits of pre-school children as the traditional television ratings compiled by the Broadcasting Audience Research Board start with viewers aged four.

Turkish frigate's shell lands near tug

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE Royal Navy was investigating yesterday how a Turkish warship on exercise fired a shell close to a British tug instead of the target it was towing.

The exercise, off Portland, Dorset, was immediately halted after the Turkish frigate *Barbaros* fired a shell which landed near the Royal Maritime Auxiliary Service tug, *Adept*.

The tug had been towing a wooden target at a distance of 1,500 yards. A Royal Navy spokesman said the target was painted iridescent yellow at the top and carried a radar reflector to make it clearly visible to the human eye and on radar screens.

He said: "The *Barbaros* fired two salvos of inert practice ammunition from a range of five to six miles. The rounds landed successfully and safely around the target, but then one round fell outside the expected area."

"Safety is of paramount importance so firing was immediately stopped. We have conflicting statements about how close to the tug the shell fell."

Cricketers line up to acquire better eye for the ball

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE batting success of the England cricket captain Michael Atherton, whose sparkling 81 yesterday in the first Test at Headingley continued his good form, is being attributed by some to exercises designed to improve his visual sharpness.

At the beginning of the season Lancashire County Cricket Club called in Dr Ken West, a visual expert, who put the players through a series of tests. Cricketers more used to calisthenics and slip-catch practice were asked to focus on a sheet of paper rotating at 33rpm on a record turntable, and try to read the letters on it.

Dr West, an American living in South Africa, believes that the 14 muscles of the eye are at least as deserving of exercise as those of the rest of the body. According to David Lloyd, Lancashire's coach, the exercises are working. "The players are very positive about it," he said yesterday. "It's not the be-all and end-all, but we've tried something

new and it worked." Among other tests Dr West carried out was one to determine eye-dominance.

The Lancashire batsman John Crawley, for example, is left-eye dominant, which makes him favour shots to the leg side. A right-eye dominant batsman favours the off side. Now that he has learnt that fact about himself, Crawley is making a conscious effort to allow for it by turning the head when he plays shots to the off. He is also doing exercises to strengthen his right eye. Crawley's efforts seem to be paying off: he scored 152 in the County Championship match against Glamorgan yesterday.

Dr West is credited with helping the South African batsman Daryll Cullinan, a prodigy when he first burst on the first-class scene at the age of 16. Dr West found he was an esophore, somebody whose eyes slant slightly inwards, which is an advantage when trying to focus on a cricket ball. In most of us, the eyes tend to slant slightly outwards.

But, under pressure, adrenalin can cause an esophore's eyes to converge too much, Dr West believes. Such people can be brilliant in the nets but less effective when it really matters. Cullinan had lost his batting form, but after advice from Dr West is now playing well again.

Atherton did outstandingly well on the eye tests and Ray Illingworth, the England manager, has said that he may call in Dr West to examine the England team.



Lloyd: exercises worked

Test match report, page 40

Vasectomy advice 'issued too late'

By RICHARD DUCE

HEALTH Department advice to doctors that vasectomies might not lead to permanent sterilisation was not introduced until seven years after a woman unexpectedly conceived a son, the High Court was told yesterday.

Isobel Darns, 42, and her husband Roy, 46, who had a vasectomy in 1983, are suing the department for negligence because they say that they should have been told the operation could reverse itself. John Cartwright, representing the couple, claims that the risk of a failed vasectomy was made clear only on a new operation consent form introduced in 1992.

Dr Kenneth Calman, the Government's Chief Medical Officer since 1991, yesterday gave evidence in the case, seen as a test of the public's right to know about medical research. He said that the department was aware of research in 1984, published in the *British Medical Journal*, which showed that a vasectomy could reverse itself in one in 2,000 cases. The Handbook of Contraceptive Practice, issued to GPs that year, said the success of a

vasectomy could never be guaranteed, he said. The next issue of the handbook, distributed in 1990, said success could not be permanently guaranteed.

Dr Calman said that it had been known in the medical profession as long ago as 1973 that vasectomies could fail. He estimated that 80 per cent of GPs were members of the British Medical Association and would receive a free copy each week of the *BMJ*. Soundings on new published medical research had to be taken before new guidelines were issued to doctors.

Mrs Darns, of Wellesborough, Northamptonshire, says that she would have been sterilised after the birth of her sons Andrew, 15, and Keith, 14, if she had known that her husband's vasectomy could fail. She gave birth to Jordan, their third son, in 1991.

The department says that such a claim, if successful, would lead to vast amounts of money being spent informing the public about general medical developments.

The hearing continues.

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Graduates failing to make the most of better job prospects

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE recession in the graduate jobs market is over, but campuses still lack the "feel-good" factor that would encourage students to make the most of their improved opportunities, university careers officers reported yesterday.

Statistics published today show conditions beginning to improve a year ago, as almost half of the old universities' graduates went straight into jobs. The trend has accelerated in recent months, with large companies raising recruitment targets and returning to the "milk round" of campus interviews. For the

first time in five years, the number of openings for graduates is rising faster than the numbers leaving higher education. Although 12 per cent more graduates will be competing for jobs this summer, a national vacancies survey to be published later this month is expected to show an even bigger increase.

At least 40 per cent of traditional graduate recruiters are planning to take more trainees this year, but careers officers have found students slow to react to the change. Many complete their degrees before weighing up their op-

tions. Keith Dugdale, the Director of Manchester University's careers service, said: "Students' expectations are depressed at a time when all the economic signs show a welcome improvement. The jobs are out there but, like consumers and retail spending, the graduates don't have the confidence to go for them."

Manchester has run a dozen focus groups to test students' perceptions of their employment prospects. All expected conditions to be just as tough as at the height of the recession, despite evidence of more opportunities in information technology and other fields.

John Exworthy, head of Southampton University's careers service, said students tended to be at least a year behind the times in their view of the market. "At the start of the recession, they were going blithely on as if nothing had happened, and it is the same now that we are emerging."

A five-year survey of the milk round conducted by Mr Exworthy has shown employers choosing their visits more carefully. Although overall numbers have declined again this year, Manchester University has hosted 140 companies in the present academic year — a 10 per cent improvement on 1993-1994.



The retired bishops, Richard Rutt, left, and Conrad Meyer, right, with the Bishop of Plymouth after their ordination

Former Anglican bishops turn to Rome

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

TWO retired Anglican bishops, both married, were ordained as Roman Catholic priests yesterday at Buckfast Abbey, Devon. Special permission from Rome was needed for the ordination of Father Conrad Meyer, former Bishop of Dorchester, and Father Richard Rutt, former Bishop of Leicester.

The ceremony does not indicate any softening of the Vatican line on priestly

celibacy, which will remain the norm for the foreseeable future. But celibacy will not be demanded of the two priests.

The Catholic Church is awaiting final approval from Rome before it decides how married clergy can best be deployed. Father Rutt and Father Meyer will live as retired Catholic priests, available to give help in their local parishes and occasionally further afield.

Father Meyer, 72, said: "There are really no negative sides to this situation, no criticisms and no theological thum-

derbolts to be hurled." He said he believed the Catholic Church was "the representative of the body founded by Jesus Christ. I value very much the recognition by the Catholic Church of the ministry that I was privileged to exercise in my Anglican days."

The Right Rev Christopher Budd, Roman Catholic Bishop of Plymouth, said: "I was pleased that the Vatican gave permission for the ordination. The diocese will benefit from their extensive pastoral experience."

Beetles make a meal of invader

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

AN IMPORTED worm that is threatening the ground beneath our feet may have found its nemesis in the native British beetle.

Until now the New Zealand flatworm, which consumes native earthworms, was thought to have no natural predator in Britain and to be unstoppable in its gradual spread through the country.

However, scientists at the Institute of Cell, Animal and Population Biology at Edinburgh University have found by chance that the larvae of some common beetles will feed on the alien.

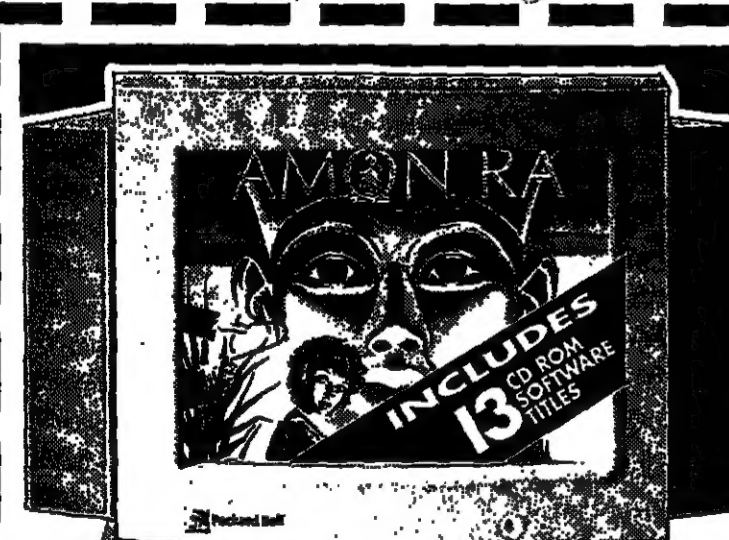
Derek Cosens and colleagues at the institute made the discovery while carrying out experiments which involved staining the flatworms red and green. "We released them into a controlled allomene area," Dr Cosens said. "We were surprised later to find beetle larvae that had also turned red and green, which meant they must have eaten the flatworms."

Wildlife experts caution that it is too early to say that the invader's days are numbered. Andrew Halstead, chief entomologist at the Royal Horticultural Society's garden at Wisley, Surrey, said: "We do not know how effective the beetle larvae are in the wild where they have a choice of many other things to eat."

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SIMON WALPER

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be the same again.

Mr Goldman talking after the verdict. He will have to pay about £8,000 of his costs but "it was worth it"

FIAT DUCATO

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Kingsdown report

British businesses want single currency that works

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S interests would be best served by joining a single currency if its European partners go ahead with the project in 1999, the Kingsdown report on economic and monetary union concludes.

It concedes that devising a single currency is fraught with difficulty but suggests that the relevance of such technical questions — which include the achievement of the five convergence criteria of low inflation and interest rates, stable exchange rates, and small budget deficits and public debt — is outweighed by the lack of more attractive options to standing apart from EMU.

The report's third main conclusion is that the drive for a single currency among the core states of the European Union cannot be divorced from their quest for closer European integration. British rejection of a single currency would mark a deeper breach with its continental partners.

It agrees with the Eurosceptics that a single currency has political consequences by, for instance, foreshadowing much greater economic integration of the European economies and the pooling of political decision-making. But, unlike the sceptics, it does not rejoice in the prospect of a Britain "marginalised" from a more tightly knit Community.

Finally, the report concludes that the British opt-out from

stage three of EMU, negotiated by John Major at Maastricht, has postponed sensible debate in Britain on the merits of EMU.

The report, *The Kingsdown Enquiry*, has been drawn up by a working party of 17 economists, businessmen and politicians chaired by Lord Kingsdown, formerly Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor of the Bank of England. The group, which began work in January, took evidence from a variety of experts.

Among the working party were Quentin Davies and Tim Renton, both pro-European Tory MPs. Graham Bishop of Salomon Brothers, Sir Michael Butler of Hambros Bank, and Professor Richard Poots of the London Business School.

The report was published by Action Centre for Europe, a pro-European organisation supported by individual and business subscribers, which has the former Chancellor Lord Howe of Aberavon as its president and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, David Hunt, the Public Service Minister, and Stephen Dorrell, the National Heritage Secretary, on its governing council. The three serving ministers played no part in drawing up the report.

The report says: "The balance of the evidence and of the arguments which we have

heard seems to weigh clearly in favour of the case for British participation in EMU. Most of the evidence we heard from the business community gave a clear answer: if there is a monetary union, and if it works, it is in Britain's interest to be part of it.

"They tended to argue that inflation and interest rates were likely to be lower if Britain joined an EMU run on Bundesbank lines than if it remained outside: that British

"If Britain stays out there is a real risk it will become increasingly marginalised"

access to the single market was likely to be strengthened if we were inside, and might conceivably be jeopardised if we were outside; that monetary union seemed to promise those infinitely desirable business commodities, stability and predictability; and that, in the most general terms, the British economy and British business were likely to be at a disadvantage if a monetary union were formed by others and Britain remained outside."

However, the report admits

that some economists gave warning that monetary union "may not work well". The working party was told either that the Maastricht formula for EMU might turn out to be a "bad system" because, for instance, it failed to give extra freedom on tax and spending to offset the loss of exchange rate and monetary flexibility. Alternatively, "bad behaviour" by one or more of the countries involved could destabilise the system.

But the report suggests that the prospect of such inevitable "teething difficulties" are not of decisive importance. "They [economists] may be stressing the dangers unduly. It is really not too difficult to pick holes in a plan for monetary union which has no practical precedent. What the sceptical economists need to do, as the debate develops, is to weigh their professional misgivings in the balance of the real politico-economic alternatives facing Britain."

"In particular, they have to weigh the risks and uncertainties of EMU against the known drawbacks of the present situation... We have to keep in mind that leading member states of the EU, with long track records of economic management far more successful than Britain's, are politically committed to monetary union."

"Are we to believe that they



have engaged themselves frivolously and ignorantly in a senseless adventure which is bound to go wrong? Are we to suppose that, if defects arise, they will not subsequently take steps to remedy the system in the light of experience...?"

"We must obviously give all due weight to the expert arguments on the pros and cons of the plan for EMU... But the critical considerations will be political. Does Britain

want to stay close, and get closer, to its main... partners in Europe? Or does it want to stand aside, and in some fundamental sense, separate itself from them?"

"If a handful of advanced... states decides to go ahead to form a monetary union, it seems all too likely that they will form a political inner core of the EU, which is likely to become increasingly integrated, in many fields, not just monetary union. If Britain

stays outside, there must be a real risk that Britain could become increasingly marginalised."

Britain should not renounce its opt-out from the final stage of EMU. But if it is to keep all options open, a public debate is needed now.

The Kingsdown Enquiry (Action Centre for Europe, 39 St James's Place, London SW1)

Anatole Kaletsky, page 16
Leading article, page 17

Time for the Pro-European Tories to end their silence

The Tory truce over Europe never lasts for long. Nor should it. Britain's relations with the European Union are too important to be brushed aside until external pressures force them onto the agenda. After the upsurge of infighting four months ago, the pro-Europeans and the sceptics have had an armed truce, at least ahead of the writing of the Tory manifesto. A negotiating position for the inter-governmental conference has been broadly agreed, while monetary union has been left an open question. Consequently, some of the Cabinet's pro-Europeans were annoyed by the public airing of the differences yesterday with the publication of the Kingsdown report on

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

the implications of monetary union. The pro-Europeans have in the past sought to depict the sceptics as disruptive. They fear that the tables will now be turned and the sceptics will seek to push government policy more in their direction. For instance, John Major went further than before in arguing that the conditions might never be right for British participation in any European single currency.

But the pro-Europeans have weakened themselves by their reluctance to argue their case publicly. Discretion seldom wins political

battles. The non-Cabinet pros have at last come out fighting against the tide of Euroscepticism. They have no shortage of generals and colonels (some admittedly on the retired list, but do they have the troops?)

The Kingsdown report was produced by Action Centre for Europe, a largely Tory group with backing from the business and ex-Foreign Office establishment. It was the third such initiative in as many days. On Tuesday, the Federal Trust enthusiastically endorsed monetary union, and on Wednesday the European Movement, now chaired by Labour's Giles Radice, held a news conference to demonstrate the all-party nature of the fight-back against the sceptics.

The main parties offer a mirror image of each other, and of the position in the 1970s. On the Tory side, the pro-Europeans are predominantly from the older generation, including several MPs who are retiring, such as Tim Renton and Sir Peter Hordern. The young and the ambitious tend to be more on the sceptical wing. By contrast, it is fashionable to be pro-European in the Labour Party. Most of the anti-s are veterans from the battles of the past 20 years like Peter Shore and Nigel Spearing, though on economic issues supplemented by critics of the Blair-Brown line like Peter Hain and Roger Berry.

The Tory pro-Europeans have been cowed by the rise of the

sceptics since the Maastricht battles two years ago. Apart from occasional robust interventions from Kenneth Clarke and, in a more restrained form from Douglas Hurd, the Cabinet pro-Europeans have been mainly quiet. Among middle-ranking and junior ministers, Tim Eggar and Ian Taylor have been virtually alone in going public with their views. Similarly, on the back benches, only a handful of pro-Europeans have made any impact. Apart from former MPs like Lord Howe, few have been willing to engage in the debate about the merits of a single currency as Norman Lamont, for example, has in series of weighty speeches.

Yet a substantial majority of all

MPs are broadly pro-European. There was always, for example, a big underlying majority for the Maastricht Bill, and depending on the terms, there might also be a majority, albeit a smaller one, for Britain to join a single currency. The Tory pro-Europeans, especially those in Government, have made a mistake in being largely silent over the past two years. They have allowed the sceptics to take the initiative. Instead of being embarrassed by the Kingsdown report, the pro-Europeans should publicly welcome it and start campaigning — otherwise they might as well admit defeat.

PETER RIDDELL

Women MPs trail foreign sisters

By ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

BRITAIN has a smaller proportion of women MPs than many Third World countries including Vietnam, Iraq and Bangladesh, according to Unicef. It also fares badly against other industrialised nations, coming 18th in a list of 22.

In its annual report, *The Progress of Nations*, Unicef found that Britain lagged far behind most of the world with only 9 per cent of MPs being women. Spain, Italy and Ireland all had a higher percentage. Sweden was top of the list with 42 per cent.

The report sets out league tables ranking countries according to their progress for children and women on health, education and family planning. Among the Third World nations, Vietnam (9 per cent), Iraq (11 per cent) and Angola, Bangladesh and Burundi (all 10 per cent) had a higher proportion of women parliamentarians than Britain. In South Africa, one of the world's youngest democracies, 25 per cent of the MPs are women — the highest proportion of any developing nation. Of the industrialised countries, only Australia, France, Greece and Japan have a smaller proportion of women in Parliament than Britain. Japan is bottom of the list with 3 per cent.

Clare Short, Shadow Minister for Women, said the report indicated Labour's decision to choose candidates from women-only shortlists in many constituencies. "You only have to look at the House of Commons to see it wasn't selected on merit. People look at our Parliament and they despise it because it is full of arrogant, out-of-touch men. Labour is the only party trying to change that perception."

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to agriculture and fisheries ministers and the Prime Minister were followed by debates on proposed disclosure of select committee papers relating to the Mervyn Davies affair; orders on the European Union; and co-operation agreements with Russia and Ukraine. In the Lords: debate on the Home Energy Conservation Bill, third reading; Criminal Appeals Bill, committee stage; Criminal Justice Bill, committee stage.

TODAY in the Commons: debate on the drugs White Paper. The House of Lords is not sitting.

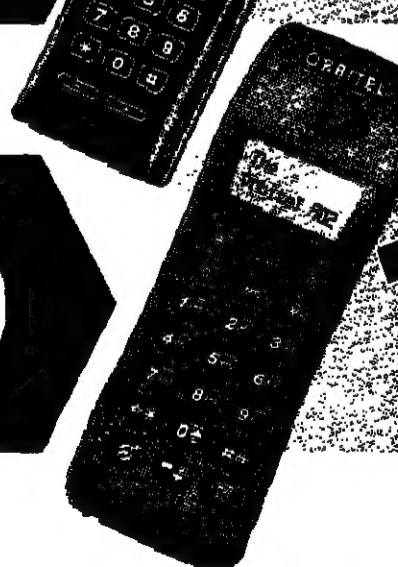
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Republicans move to end long death row appeals

Senators approve tough anti-terrorist legislation

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE US Senate has approved a sweeping anti-terrorism Bill in the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing that also includes the most drastic restriction ever imposed on appeals by death row inmates.

Senators approved the legislation by 91 votes to eight on Wednesday night, despite serious misgivings about a Republican amendment limiting most death row inmates to a single appeal in a federal court to be filed within a year of conviction.

This provision would mean most death penalties being carried out within two years of sentencing. The 3,000 prisoners on America's death rows survive an average of eight to ten years before being executed, and some have kept the appeals process going as long as 30. This Bill would allow a second appeal only in exceptional circumstances, including the discovery of convincing new evidence that could not have been found during

the first trial. Senator Edward Kennedy said it was wrong to "sneak" this provision into an "anti-terrorism Bill that all of us want to pass as quickly and as responsibly as we can", and that the Oklahoma City bombers "will have triumphed if their actions prompt us to short-circuit the Constitution".

President Clinton, who dropped his objections to the provision on Monday, welcomed the passage of the broader Bill, saying it would "give law enforcement officers the tools it needs to do everything possible to prevent this kind of tragedy [the Oklahoma City bombing in April] from happening again".

If, as expected, the House of Representatives passes similar legislation, the Bill would make it easier for law enforcement officers to buy telephones and obtain credit card, travel and hotel records. Some civil libertarians claim this tramples on individual rights. It would increase the penalties

for terrorist crimes, require traceable materials called taggants in explosive materials, and finance the hiring of 1,000 new anti-terrorist officers. It would ban fundraising in America by those with terrorist links and make their deportation easier.

The House, meanwhile, rejected by 217 votes to 201 a Republican effort to repeal the 1973 War Powers Act, dealing a rare defeat to Newt Gingrich, the Speaker. The Act was passed over President Nixon's veto as America was involved in the Vietnam War. It was designed to limit a president's ability to send troops into combat by requiring him to obtain congressional approval within 60 days of their deployment.

Every president has considered the Act unconstitutional and refused to recognise it. Mr Gingrich argued that the president's powers to protect America's national security needed strengthening and

might have prevailed, had the House not been so alarmed by Mr Clinton's recent hints of greater involvement in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In another development, Mr Clinton has endorsed the recommendations of a bipartisan congressional commission that would cut legal immigration to America by a third. The President's move puts him in tune with the high anti-immigrant sentiment among Americans, although certain core Democratic constituencies were upset by it.

The commission said admission of legal immigrants' immediate family members should be accelerated, but ended for brothers, sisters and adult children. It also recommended an end to the employment of unskilled foreign workers. If adopted by Congress, where initial reaction was favourable, the legislation would cut the annual ceiling for immigration from about 800,000 to 550,000.

Babies suffocate while mother is at party



Jennie Bain, whose baby sons Devon, above, and Dustin died when they were left for up to ten hours in a parked car as the temperature outside reached 32°



FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN McMINNVILLE, TENNESSEE

TWO children died after spending up to ten hours in a car parked outside a motel in hot weather while their mother met friends for a party.

Dustin Ducker, one, and his brother, Devon, who would have been two next month, died of dehydration and suffocation after being strapped in their car seats with the windows rolled up as temperatures outside reached 32°, police said.

No charges have been brought against the mother, Jennie Bain, 20, who appeared to be drunk. Police have not released the findings of a blood alcohol test. "I don't think she realised what's going on," a police spokesman said. Police believe she went to the motel around 3.30am. "Our investigation shows the kids were left unattended from eight to ten hours," the spokesman said.

Bill Locke, the District Attorney, said he may present the case to a grand jury for further investigation. The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and the Warren County Sheriff's Department are also investigating the case.

Witnesses at the motel told police they saw Ms Bain return periodically to the parked car.

Reagan continues his 'long goodbye'

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

A FEW weeks ago former President Reagan, who has Alzheimer's disease, saw the White House on television and could not remember having lived there.

A little later he attended a private dinner in his honour at a Los Angeles restaurant. The room burst into applause as he was leaving, but Mr Reagan could not comprehend that it was for him. He only registered when his wife, Nancy, gently turned him round to acknowledge the ovation, by which time his friends were tearful.

Mr Reagan announced last November that he had Alzheimer's and was beginning "the journey that will lead me into the sunset of my life", since when he has stopped all public appearances and his friends and family have built a protective wall around him.

Just occasionally the wall is breached, seemingly with official sanction. In January Edmund Morris, Mr Reagan's biographer, wrote in *The New Yorker* that the former President, 84, had ceased to recognise him and "I no longer recognise him... For all the intimate familiarity of that face and body, for all the willingness with which he showed me his framed photographs, his jelly-bean jar and his view of the Hollywood hills, I did not feel his presence beside me, only his absence."

Yesterday it was *The Washington Post's* turn. Quoting unidentified friends of Mr Reagan, it reported that he remained "physically vigorous but mentally on a gentle roller coaster of good days and bad days".

The Post reported that the "Gipper" still goes to his Los Angeles office from 10am to 3pm each day and plays golf once a week.

He still looks fit, but he has grown increasingly dependent on Nancy, who said recently that the families of Alzheimer's victims "needed support" because for the caregiver, it's a long goodbye.

Baseball legend has liver transplant

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

MICKEY MANTLE, the revered baseball star, underwent an operation yesterday to replace his liver, which was destroyed by a history of alcoholism almost as legendary as his prowess on the field.

As American fans waited to hear the outcome of the operation on one of baseball's most adored, talented and debauched heroes, messages of admiration poured in. "I grew up cheering him every day," Rudolph Giuliani, New York's Mayor, said.

Mr Mantle, 63, was admitted to a Dallas hospital on May 28 suffering from cirrhosis of the liver caused by four decades of heavy drinking. The star player for the New York Yankees in the 1950s and 1960s, who still holds the record for World Series home runs, Mr Mantle was subsequently found to be suffering from liver cancer and hepatitis. Doctors said he had just weeks to live unless a liver donor could be found.

Patients must wait an average of 130 days for a liver transplant in America, but in Mr Mantle's case a suitable organ was located within days of his diagnosis and surgery went ahead yesterday.

The baseball player often said that he expected to die young because no male member of his family had survived past the age of 41.



Mantle set a record for World Series home runs

Nasa told how to give woodpeckers the bird

BY ANJANA AHUJA

SUGGESTIONS from the bizarre to the brutal have flooded in to Nasa from people eager to prevent a woodpecker from delaying the multibillion-dollar American space programme.

The ideas came after the 21st launch of the shuttle *Discovery* and the testing of a redesigned engine had to be postponed because a yellow-shafted flicker woodpecker had pecked more than 75 holes in the insulating foam around the fuel tank, apparently in the search for a place to mate. The shuttle, which should have lifted off yesterday from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, had to be wheeled back into its hangar at a cost of \$100,000 (£62,893).

Practical suggestions sent from around the world to Steve Altemus, the space agency's test director, included painting the tanks blue, which is apparently loathed

by woodpeckers, using jet engines to engineer a draft above the tanks, knocking out the birds with stun guns, and draping protective nets over the shuttle.

More innovative remedies included boiling cabbage and spraying the water onto the tanks, sprinkling vulnerable areas with racoon scent, and using a shaman to summon helpful spirits. One writer felt the problem could be handled with a well-aimed rifle, ruled out because the launch pad is in a nature reserve.

For now, the responsibility for protecting the shuttle has fallen to several strategically placed plastic owls and a high-pitched siren. Mr Altemus has joined ornithologists to form the Bird Investigation Review and Deterrent team (Bird) to investigate humane but effective ways of keeping away the shuttle's feathered intruders.

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Christopher tour spurs hopes of Syrian deal

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

WARREN CHRISTOPHER, the American Secretary of State, arrived here yesterday to begin his 13th and most important Middle East peace mission amid a widespread sense of optimism about progress towards an Israeli-Syrian deal.

The upbeat atmosphere was heightened by confirmation that Mr Christopher will attend a summit in Cairo this morning with the leaders of Israel and Egypt and reports of a remarkably positive telephone call between President Clinton and President Assad of Syria.

Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, said Mr Clinton told him: "I have never heard President Assad so optimistic concerning chances of the agreement with Israel as I heard him this week in a phone conversation."

Mr Rabin, who has signalled that Israel will be prepared to sanction a complete withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights in exchange for a treaty, added: "I do not know if, in the end, we will reach an agreement

with Syria. The negotiations are still in front of us, but the fact is that the US President found Assad, for the first time, optimistic concerning an agreement with Israel."

The mood of optimism was buoyed by the normally low-key Mr Christopher, who said during his flight to Israel: "We go out in a moment when there is an opportunity for considerable progress." On landing in Tel Aviv, he drove home his message by saying: "There is now a real opportunity for a comprehensive peace."

A similar tone was adopted by the Syrian press. Al-Thawra, regarded as the voice of the Assad regime, said that the American mission had "exceptional importance" and pledged that Mr Christopher "will clearly feel Syria's full readiness to co-operate seriously with any practical movement towards achieving a real start in the peace process".

Behind the rhetoric is the conviction that, at the end of his trip, Mr Christopher will be able to confirm that General Hikmat Shihabi and Lieu-

tenant-General Amnon Shahak, the Syrian and Israeli chiefs of staff respectively, will open full security negotiations in Washington before the end of June. Although abortive talks at a similar level took place last December, the officers were then mandated only to present their Governments' positions rather than attempt to resolve the differences.

The sudden change in the pace in talks which have remained bogged down for three years has been forced by two key factors — the 1996 election in Israel, which Syria realises could put in place a right-wing government unwilling to deal on the Golan, and Israel's recognition that a neutralised Syria is vital if it is to meet the far greater security threat from Iran and Iraq.

Shimon Peres, Israel's Foreign Minister, outlined the change of heart to a Labour Party convention this week. Writing off any hopes that parts of the Golan could be retained, he said: "The Golan settlers are our emissaries, and have fulfilled a security mission of the first degree. But

now they must be our loyal emissaries in peace. I know it hurts."

Mr Peres, who agrees with Mr Rabin about the need to relinquish all the Syrian territory conquered in 1967, added: "We must sign a peace agreement with Syria to fight the Iranian nuclear threat."

Marla Van Meier, the American-born spokeswoman for the militant Golan Residents' Committee, which this week intensified its campaign against a handover of the 32 settlements, said that she had been visited by officials from the American Embassy in Tel Aviv. "They tried to convince us that the goal of US policy was to neutralise Syria and use it as a watching point for dealing with Iran and Iraq," she said. Most of the 15,000 settlers remain unconvinced and have promised to fight attempts to remove them.

The main issues still to be resolved between Israel and Syria are the siting of the border, a timetable for evacuation and the nature of future security and monitoring arrangements.



President Fujimori is blessed by an indigenous priest in northern Peru at the edge of the Huaringas lakes. Local people believe that these Andean waters have curative powers. Accompanied by reporters, photographers and camera crews, the President, who is starting his second term of

Fujimori has a lucky dip

office and who admits that he consults clairvoyants, said after his swim in the cold water yesterday that the

lakes were magical. In his second term, he says, he will focus his Government's attention on reducing poverty and creating jobs for the country's millions of unemployed. (AP)

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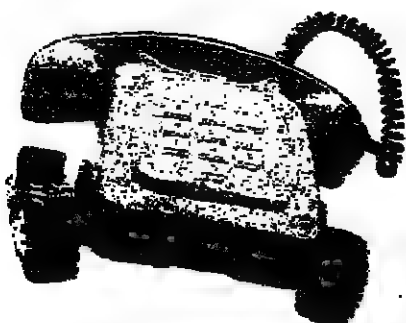
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Japanese 'gassed villagers'

Tokyo: The Japanese Army killed nearly 1,000 Chinese villagers with poison gas in the Second World War to wipe out communist resistance, a researcher in Tokyo said.

Hideo Ishikawa interviewed survivors at Beitian, eastern China, and former Japanese soldiers who told him that the attack lasted about 50 days, beginning in May 1942. Japan started making poison gas in 1929. By the end of the war, it had produced 7.46 million poison gas artillery shells, according to US military research. (AFP)

Pope 'plot' trial

Manila: Six Middle Eastern men allegedly linked to a plot to kill the Pope during a visit to The Philippines went on trial here on firearms and explosives charges. All have pleaded not guilty. (AFP)

Hunting lobby

Nairobi: Kenya may end a 20-year ban on wildlife hunting next year. About 70 per cent of all wildlife in Kenya lives on land outside national parks and reserves, causing widespread damage. (Reuters)

Basque attack

Madrid: A Spanish police officer was shot and wounded in the Basque resort of San Sebastian, the third such attack this year. The local governor blamed Eta, the Basque separatist organisation. (Reuters)

Hoxha son jailed

Tirana: Sir Hoxha, 46, the eldest son of Enver Hoxha, Albania's late communist ruler, was jailed for a year for calling for revenge against the country's leaders. Enver Hoxha died in 1985. (Reuters)

Heat kills 150

Delhi: More than 90 people have died as a heatwave raised temperatures to 50C across India's Gangetic Plain. In neighbouring Pakistan, heat took a toll of 60 lives this week. (AFP)

Village voice

Canteleux: Nine people — half of the population of this northern French village — are contesting local elections, in which the main issue is the purchase of a road sign on the village boundary. (Reuters)

Township killer given six life terms

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

AT THE end of a murder trial in Johannesburg yesterday, a 39-year-old man was sentenced to six terms of life imprisonment for killing six children ranging in age from two to eight.

Moses Mokgeti killed the children, cutting off the boys' penises and removing the girls' hearts and livers to use their body parts for muti (tribal medicine).

Justice M.J. Strydom told an impassive Mokgeti that the life terms would not run concurrently. He told him he hoped and believed that he would stay in prison for the rest of his natural life and never get remission. "I want to make sure you will never walk free among the community again," he said.

The judge said he had observed how Mokgeti remained emotionless throughout the trial and stared coldly at family members when they broke down on hearing details of his crimes.

Mokgeti, from Mofokeng near Randfontein, was also sentenced to 12 years in prison for the rape of a five-year-old girl and six years for attempting to murder her. He was captured after she escaped.

Capital punishment was ruled unconstitutional on Tuesday. But yesterday the grandmother of one victim, two-year-old Rearabetswe Kgoleng, said she was relieved but felt that the death sentence should be brought back for cases of child murder and abuse.

"We are going to be paying to keep that animal in prison," an emotional Pascalina Kgoleng said. The court was told that the muti was obtained for a wealthy businessman who wanted it to increase his economic vigour. Mrs Kgoleng also called for the purchaser to be brought to justice. [Durban: A top aide to Mangosuthu Buthe, the Inkatha Freedom Party leader, was arrested yesterday in connection with a 1987 massacre in which 13 people, mostly children, died.

A judge released Mr M. Z. Khumalo, Inkatha's Deputy Secretary-General, on 10,000 rands (£2,000) bail and ordered him to surrender his passport. Two policemen were arrested earlier. (AP)

Junk food addict starts losing weight to live

Los Angeles: A man immobilised by his own weight and facing death has been weaned off a lethal diet of cup cakes and peanut butter (Giles Whitfield writes).

Tommy McGruder, 35, weighed about 700lb (50 stone) when he was admitted to a Los Angeles hospital with breathing problems last month. Doctors could not be precise about his weight because they had no way of measuring it.

He returned home this week, and a team of 12 medical workers was on hand to carry Mr McGruder in a special stretcher to his bedroom from the delivery van that had brought him from the hospital. A normal ambulance was

too small. Much had changed in his kitchen. Frozen pizzas, pork chops and jars of corn bread mix had been removed by a charity that promotes better eating in America's inner cities, where junk food emporia dominate shopping malls.

His mother, Effie, 50, who will be cooking for him, said: "My son knows this is his last chance. He either eats right or he dies."

The world's heaviest man is also American. P.J. Albert Jackson, from Canton, Mississippi, weighs nearly 900lb and has a waistline of 160 in, according to the Guinness Book of Records.

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Far East outpost pushes Russia into border row

FROM RICHARD BREESTON IN VLADIVOSTOK

THE outspoken Governor of this distant outpost in Russia's Far East is nudging Moscow closer towards a potentially explosive showdown with Peking over a simmering territorial dispute, which has already led to one border conflict.

Yevgeni Nazdratenko, the tough regional boss of the Primorsky Krai region, said that he would do everything in his power to block a border agreement between the two countries aimed at ending centuries of rivalry along the 2,700-mile frontier.

"This border has stood for 157 years," said the former mining engineer and amateur boxer, who in the space of only two years in office has established himself as one of the most powerful and popular governors in Russia. "If we start giving up land to the Chinese, we might as well just pull out from the Far East altogether," he told *The Times* in an interview in his office in Vladivostok, overlooking the remnants of Russia's once mighty Pacific Fleet. "Once you begin handing over land they will just keep coming back for more."

At issue are three pockets of land, including Damansky Island, the disputed territory which triggered a brief but bloody border war in 1969. The land was turned over to China under the provisions of a 1991 treaty with the Soviet Union, which was supposed to end decades of rivalry between the two regional superpowers. Mr Nazdratenko's room for manoeuvre on issues of Russian foreign policy is limited, but that has not stopped him conducting a single-handedly aggressive campaign to

beat up border security and crack down on illegal Chinese immigrants.

"When I came to office two years ago the Primorsky was already swarming with these people — sick, tubercular, full of lice, you understand? Bandits," he raged. "If I had not done something we would have lost this territory in 15 years."

His actions, condemned by some as racist, have been welcomed by many locals who feel that their interests have been betrayed by Moscow and that their populous neighbour is intent on swallowing up Russia's Far East in one demographic gulp. According to experts the Russian population between Lake Baikal in Siberia and the Pacific coast is only eight million, while neighbouring Chinese provinces have more than 300 million people. In addition, Russia's population is steadily declining, the result of a steady migration to central and western parts of the country.

"Personally I consider the Chinese to be a lower race," said Yevgeni Kotov, 23, a student in Vladivostok who echoed a popular sentiment in the city. "Nazdratenko is standing up for our rights. The expulsions were long overdue." Mr Nazdratenko's critics accuse him of inflaming potentially explosive nationalist passions as a way of deflecting allegations of corruption in his administration and whipping up nationalist support among the disaffected population.

Vladimir Myasnikov, an expert on Sino-Russian affairs at the Institute of Far Eastern Studies, said that the Govern-

ment's attempts to unpick the historic treaty agreement could have a dangerous fallout for Russia. "We negotiated this treaty in 1991 when the Soviet Union still existed and when we were still a superpower. Since then our strength has declined and China's strength has increased," he said.

"If we reopen the argument over these small pockets of land they could renege their demands for more than a million square kilometers of our territory. He is playing a very dangerous game."

Although Russia's military might has traditionally kept China in check, for the first time in 400 years there are clear signs that Peking is now in the ascendancy. China's fast expanding economy has been matched by a military build-up and a more aggressive regional policy, highlighted most recently by its dispute with the Philippines over the Spratly Islands.

As far as Russia is concerned, the Chinese sent a powerful message to Moscow only last month, when they detonated an underground nuclear device on the day that General Pavel Grachev, the Russian Defence Minister, arrived on a visit to Peking.

Burmese dissident sent back to prison

FROM REUTERS IN BANGKOK

BURMESE military authorities have arrested a leading pro-democracy politician three months after he was released from jail, diplomats in Rangoon, the Burmese capital, said yesterday.

Kyi Maung, who is in his seventies and a senior member of the National League for Democracy (NLD), was arrested in Rangoon on Friday after he met the British Ambassador. He was detained with four or five other elderly dissidents, the envoys said.

"I don't know how much trouble these people were causing. They were not on the streets waving banners. It seems anyone who has contact with diplomats is being arrested and the only ones left are the elderly," an envoy said.

U Kyi Maung became NLD leader after Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate, and other top party members were arrested in 1989. The following year he was jailed for ten years, but was released in March.

Mac Sot About 1,000 Burmese troops attacked one of the last areas held by Karen guerrillas near the border with Thailand, Thai military sources said yesterday. Rebel sources said many troops had been killed in two days of fighting and they expected the offensive to continue.



President Lee Teng-hui, the first leader of Taiwan to visit America, greets a welcoming party at an hotel in Pasadena, California

Peking pulls punches over Lee's US visit

BY JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

WHILE President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan continued his visit to the United States yesterday, China again angrily attacked the Clinton Administration for allowing the leader of what it regards as a renegade province to attend a reunion at Cornell University, his alma mater.

Diplomats in Peking, however, noted that despite all the sound and fury, the Government seemed to be pulling its punches. "There have been a lot of words from the Chinese side but very little action," one Western diplomat said.

In Los Angeles on Wednesday, Mr Lee criticised China for opposing Taiwan's diplomatic activities. He said that securing his American visit had been as difficult as going to the moon.

Although the Chinese are clearly biding their time to see how Mr Lee is received and whether he conducts himself in a politically provocative manner when he receives an honorary degree and delivers a speech at Cornell today, the envoys note that Peking, while it suspended missile control talks, has reacted relatively mildly.

Mr Lee will meet American politicians, particularly Republican congressmen whose strong pressure helped to push the Administration — apparently reluctantly — into allowing the visit, but not government officials.

"We want to express our utmost dissatisfaction at the US Government obstinately clinging to its wrongful position," Shen Guofang, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, said yesterday. Referring to three Sino-American joint communiques that regulate relations, documents that agree there is only one China, Mr Shen said Mr Lee's American visit would produce "very serious potential negative impacts" on relations. He declined to say what they might be.

Civilians killed in Burundi fighting

FROM REUTERS IN BUJUMBURA

AT LEAST 25 civilians were found massacred inside the last Hutu bastion of Bujumbura, the Burundi capital, early yesterday in the wake of an army sweep through the town to clear out militiamen on Wednesday.

Frightened residents said more dead, killed by bullets and blades, lay in houses and down backstreets. Bodies seen by journalists who arrived yesterday were still fresh, indicating that they were killed on Wednesday, when the Tutsi-dominated army moved into the Kamenge area after a week-long siege.

Remaining civilians in the area said troops and Tutsi youth militia slaughtered people who were too weak or old to leave Kamenge after the assault. "They are old, they know nothing, they can do nothing," one young man cried out.

There were, however, smiles of relief from one couple, who had been separated during the siege. The man bumped into his wife, their baby strapped to her back, on Kamenge's main street. But their plan was to join more than a million Rwandan and Burundian refugees in Zaire. There was no life for them, they said, so long as Burundi's 17,000-strong armed forces remained almost exclusively recruited from the Tutsi minority.

As reporters left Kamenge, a nervous Tutsi soldier, who was manning a checkpoint, claimed that Hutu militiamen had killed members of their own tribe in order to tarnish the army's image.

Keating does not want to be president

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

PAUL KEATING, Australia's Prime Minister, yesterday denied that he had presidential ambitions and ruled himself out as a contender for head of state.

"I would never consider the position," the Labour leader said, after revealing plans to cut constitutional ties with Britain. "This is not about me, this is about Australia."

Mr Keating's remarks followed his announcement that a referendum on a republic would be held in 1998 or 1999, and that a new head of state would be elected by parliament and not the public. His "minimalist" approach to a republic would give the president the same authority as the Governor-General.

John Howard, the Opposition leader, last night accused the Prime Minister of not giving Australians a proper say in the formulation of a republic.

He also proposed a "people's convention" to hammer out a consensus on constitutional changes.

In a formal response to Mr Keating's earlier speech, Mr Howard said in a television address: "Our approach is to allow you to decide the Australian constitution the Australian people want, not the kind of constitution the current Prime Minister wants."

Australians for a Constitutional Monarchy yesterday unveiled a £250,000 television campaign to counter the Government's proposals. It also emerged yesterday that the Queen has been kept in touch with developments by Mr Keating.

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After three years of relentless negotiations, Lord Owen says he has decided to give up politics for ever

'I lost a disc of my back to the Balkans but now I'm demob-happy'

David Owen is feeling demob-happy. He will no longer be greeted at parties with "How do you stand it? How can you carry on?" (Never, "Gosh, I wish I had your job"). This week he bade goodbye to Tudjman over lunch, to Milosevic over dinner, today he flies to Paris to say adieu to Prime Minister Alain Juppé, and tonight he comes home to hang up his negotiating hat. Tomorrow he will be playing tennis on his court in Wiltshire.

The Balkans have disrupted his family life for three years. "And no doubt aged me," he says. But when John Major appointed him in August 1992, "I was hoist on my own petard, having spoken out for a more active policy. It's like being offered Northern Ireland: it would be cowardice to say no. And the best thing was, it gave me a good opportunity to step right back from domestic politics and party divisions."

It was also the nearest approximation to his former role on the world stage when, as Foreign Secretary in the 1970s, he would see Cy Vance for breakfast, Gromyko for lunch and the Chinese Foreign Minister for tea. But he never expected the ghastly mess to drag on for so long. He was not even paid for the first six months. He took a charming flat in Geneva under the cathedral so the bells would rock him out of bed even before the *Today* programme did. If he sometimes sounded wearily disdainful at that hour, he was often in chronic pain from an arthritic knee, and his back. "I lost a disc of my back to the Balkans," he says. Last November a Geneva neurosurgeon removed the disc with microsurgery, and there has

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



been a miraculous improvement to his arthritic knee. A New York specialist told him he would have to have an artificial one; Dr Owen said he hadn't the time. "So I lost weight, and nature seems to have healed it. I could barely walk 400 yards; now I can walk four or five miles." And I saw him dancing energetically with his wife Debbie three weeks ago.

He occupies an elegant suite in Queen Anne's Gate, the house where Lord Palmerston was born. The tall-windowed office has an enormous bouquet of lilies sent by David Brinkley, on whose US television show he was to have appeared (it was cancelled when the P16 was shot down: Lord Owen knew from Milosevic that the pilot was alive). And there is a smaller bouquet from the University of Leiden in Holland, where he had spoken the previous evening on "The Limits of UN Enforcement".

On the chimneypiece stands a line of political biographies: Gaitskill, John Major, Tito. A tiny Frenchman arrived ("Bonjour") cried Dr Owen (impressively) delivering a large envelope from President Chirac.

Only nine days ago he made his maiden speech in the House of Lords. Three minutes before he spoke, he heard that Alain Juppé had announced that Owen would be standing down: this came as a complete surprise (although he had asked to go by the end of June) to John Major, Douglas Hurd and himself. Up he spoke, eloquently, about the danger of "laptop bombardiers" in Bosnia. Jim Callaghan then sang his praises: "I have never been in doubt about his ability," said Jim. "That meant a lot to me," Owen says. "I still think of him as my boss."

I wondered whether, over those interminable conference tables, he ever got to speak on personal terms with any of the Balkan leaders. "Well, I saw Miladinovic in Geneva shortly after his daughter, a medical student, committed suicide. She was very close to him and it was a traumatic time. I just couldn't cope with not saying anything, so I said, through the interpreter, 'My son was once terribly ill and I thought I'd lost him, and I know what you must be feeling, there's nothing worse'."

There are human sides to it, sometimes. I found I could talk to Izetbegovic privately about the moral dilemma of hanging in for a perfect peace when events on the ground were destroying it.

"That was the hardest thing about this whole job: most of the leaders just seem completely oblivious to the loss of life, the malnutrition, the disease, the horrors of day-by-day living, and above all the day-by-day ethnic cleansing, creating partition. And so they wait for this perfect peace, the moralists in Washington or



Owen: back to private business — and tennis — after a long and tiring disruption

Sarajevo, while Serb towns like Bijeljina and Banja Luka, which had a Muslim population when the Vance-Owen strategy began, were ethnically cleansed. "I'm not someone who shows my emotions, but I have never flinched from saying

that killing a people's way of life and destroying their roots is as bad as killing people. But they find it easier not to grapple with the moral dilemma, easier to espouse the perfect peace."

Owen has done everything possible — in the face of obduracy, dissembling, disinformation, propaganda, death threats. He decided after much agonising that there should be a Yugoslav war crimes tribunal. "A generation had grown up who had forgot-

ten that there was a Nuremberg, that there were rules of war: when these thugs were interviewed, they seemed to think 'we are at war' was an answer, and if this went unchallenged the rules of war might be lost for ever." He worked harmoniously ("you could not put a cigarette paper between us") with both Vance and Stoltenberg. He remained stalwart about the danger of getting sucked into a Balkan war on the back of humanitarian intervention — "I couldn't live with myself if boys like Tristan and Gareth [his sons] lost their lives in combat in what is predominantly a civil war."

The first two years, we worked our backsides off. There was this endless sense of urgency as we were told there would be starvation when the snows came — but Mother Nature was kind, three mild winters. There has been no humanitarian disaster. There is no doubt that the UN have done a very good job."

In his final confrontation with General Mladic ("who in his strange peaked hat is a relic of the proud old monarchistic Serbia") he tried to impress on him "that talking hostages is not the way Serbs behave. Or the way great armies behave. Just to huff and puff would probably stiffen their resolve."

He started to glimpse life after Bosnia last summer, when Costa Vryella made him a non-executive director. "So I've started to get back into private business for the first time since I ran a company in the early 1970s, my first experience of the workings of the marketplace." This was Decision Technology of Boston, then developing beta-blockers, using computers to investigate tremor. "We used to inject adrenalin into each other — get the dosage wrong and you're dead."

On medical matters he speaks with such galvanised enthusiasm I wonder that he did not retreat from the Commons to the world of medicine. He still prefers to be called Dr Owen. Now that his son Gareth is reading medicine (and living on a canal boat, replicating his father's bachelor life on a houseboat before he moved into Limehouse and turned Narrow Street into "the Park Lane of E14"), he has

someone with whom to discuss doctors' dilemmas. It is what makes Dr Owen such a three-dimensional figure that he dealt with life and death (personally delivering 55 babies) before he ever got to Westminster.

He would like to write a book about Bosnia, preferably with CD-Rom visual aids. "But how should I pitch it? Perhaps as the first time the EU had inter-government consensus policy tested against America, and came through rather well. But I don't want to spend too long looking back at Bosnia."

His last book, *Time To Declare* (dictated over the shoulders of a secretary because I can't type and my handwriting is indecipherable) was a levitation at 811 pages, of which the most

enthralling and revealing episodes were about his Welsh family and his romantic youth — the wily way he courted Debbie, whom he first spied across a cocktail party being chatted up by John Pardo (so I moved in, with remarks about John's wife and children) — and the post-SDP episodes when he was courted with typical Delphic approaches by the equally wily Maurice Saatchi on behalf of the Tory party.

I longed to know what Owen thinks of the new Labour Party. "I do not intend to get involved," he said firmly. "People cannot seem to understand that I wish to cut out politics completely. I want to be a private citizen. I am not interested in any international public service any more. I want to earn my living in the markets of the world, and I will make rare speeches from the cross benches of the House of Lords."

He ended *Time To Declare* with the Robert Frost poem about having chosen to "take the road less travelled". Penguin is about to publish his *Seven Ages* anthology in paperback. Behind the statesmanlike facade beats a poet as well as a physician's soul. And after his 57th birthday in July, he goes with the family to Debbie's childhood home on Long Island for a village reunion, with endless jollin' and tennis tournaments — a reward for Debbie Owen's Penelope-like patience.

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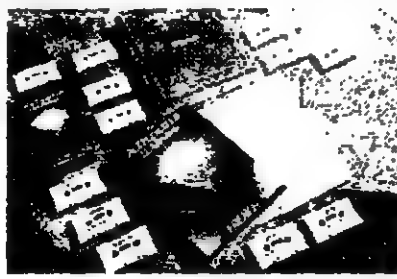
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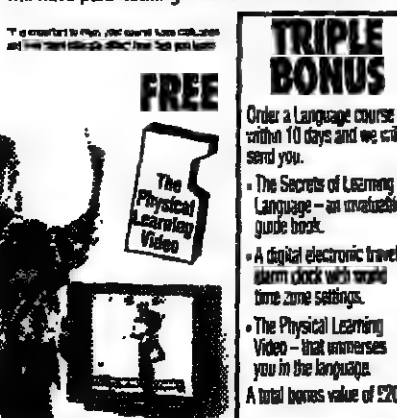


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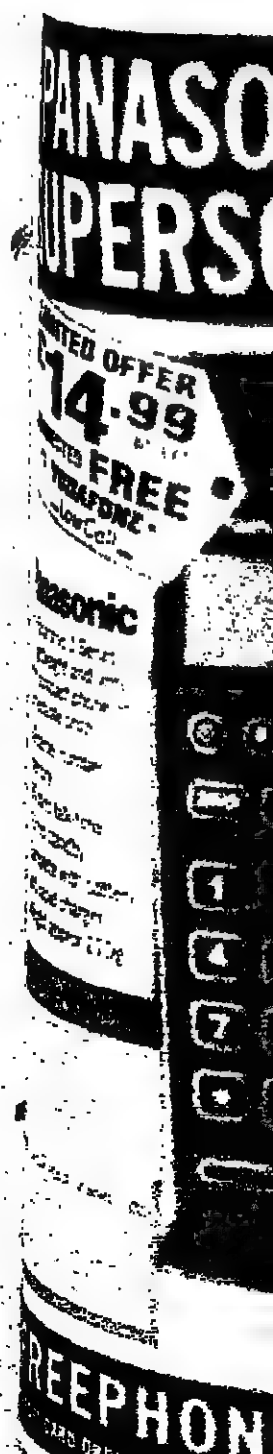
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Plus, 'Ted and me'. In her third exclusive extract from her latest memoirs, Margaret Thatcher describes how she took over the leadership of the Conservative Party from Edward Heath.



What have we done to our nice old doctors? By treating them like plumbers we are making them behave like tradesmen, says Libby Purves

William Carlos Williams, the American poet and doctor, looked back in 1948 over a long general practice. His great satisfaction, he said, lay in the humdrum: in the million and a half patients he saw over 40 years. "The actual calling on people, at all times and under all conditions, the coming to grips with the intimate conditions of their lives... has always absorbed me..." When I detached myself from them at the end of a half hour of intense concentration over some illness, it was as though I was reawakening from a sleep. I came back to myself, as from any other sleep, rested."

That passage was shown to me years ago by an old GP, who joined the NHS in its early days and remained a small-town practitioner. On retiring, he said, he too felt as if he were being locked out of a wonderful, strange, often terrible, but always absorbing.

Yesterday, angry GPs voted

against the Government's latest scheme to compensate them for the disruption of home and night visits. They are understandably fuming at being treated like 24-hour plumbers, and quote again the rise in frivolous call-outs. A woman calls the doctor at 3am because she cannot remember whether or not she took her sleeping pill, and supposes there is "a test for it"; a man demands attention at midnight because he doesn't want to be late for work. All declare that they know their rights, and some of them assault the GP. Few doctors now talk of being absorbed, fascinated, or privileged to serve. The public voice of the medical profession is becoming a snarl.

Now, I am perfectly certain that in 1948 there were plenty of cynical

doctors; nor would I deny that today there are hundreds of dedicated, even quite contented ones. There are also many sensible compromises made: round here, the problem of worried parents is frequently solved by bundling the child in the car to the duty doctor's own home, so that he or she can sleepily check up on the earache without getting out of a dressing-gown.

But even so, the contrast between the idyll of the old-time doctor and the furious GPs of today forces a question. What have we done to the



Fiction, not fact: the saintly GPs of TV's *Peak Practice*

doctors? When did this relationship start to break down, and Drs Finlay and Cameron hand over to these bitter dissidents?

Overwork is one answer. Nothing quashes idealism more than being overworked. Patients definitely

are getting more unreasonable: last year a survey of doctors showed that 85 per cent of them want the power to fine patients for stupid call-outs. Even Dr Cameron would have got a bit militant if people kept ringing Arden House at 4am to complain that they had run out of tampons, burnt their tongue on their porridge, or spotted a wee kiosk running around on their unmentionable parts (all real examples from the survey).

But look deeper: why are we so unreasonable? Society is measur-

ably less stable: far more of us live alone, far more are depressed and fearful. More families have only one parent to rely on. In the more fragmented, distrustful parts of society, general anxieties are more likely to be taken to the doctor than where they properly belong: with grannies, friends or priests.

Moreover, we have been taught to pin our hope on science. We consider health with constant energy a right, even a kind of duty: when ordered to take it easy, we refuse. Like Just Williams muttering "there oughter be a law about it" we feel that there oughter be a pill. This annoys doctors, whose training teaches them that often there isn't. They grow brusque, we grow resentful and the relationship goes ever farther downhill, with the odd

extra push from a bossy Government.

Even so, there is one other possible contributory factor which niggles at those of us now in our forties (like so many GPs). During the 1970s, medical schools seemed to grow fixated on academic excellence. They demanded glittering A grades, ignoring character. In my generation, several steady, bright, and deeply vocational young men and women were turned down as medical students, while superbright, impatient, ambitious ones (who regarded being a GP as a kind of failure) got in.

And what next? We know only too well the brutal system of long hours they were put through: we know, anecdotally, how little in the way of human values and compassion gets taught in most medical schools. Which makes it all the more of a human miracle, educationally and socially, that so many doctors got through the system, and have worked inside it.

The celebs who are waiting for Woody

The air is like a warm bath on a Sunday night on New York's Upper East Side. The beautiful and the rich are returning from their weekend homes in the Hamptons. Under a red canopy, a newly-opened restaurant glows on the cusp of confirmed trendiness. Yellow cabs cluster outside and the word "darling" keeps falling from the doorway.

Through the window there is a scene which already looks set in sepia — yellowing walls and lights covered with old newspapers and comfortable leather banquettes covered with, among others, author Gita Mehta, a smattering of actors, a scriptwriter, and someone from *The New Yorker*.

Since The Kiosk restaurant opened four days ago, it has been packed with the literati and the Briterati. Helen Mirren rolled in: Gita brought her publisher husband Sonny; Peter Ayres dropped by out of the English production of *Hamlet*, as well as Ian Holm and that girl from the film *Muriel's Wedding*.

Who can be the hostess of a spot already hot before it even has the chance to warm up? Who but Nell Campbell, the table-dancing Anglo-Australian owner of the Eighties' downtown nightclub Nell's, now reincarnated uptown for the Nineties.

Nell (never Ms Campbell) is one of those people like, say, Elizabeth Hurley, who is famous for merely being famous. With immaculate timing, she opened Nell's in 1986 when Manhattan was at its most decadent and excessive before the Wall Street crash.

Decorated like a gentle-

Kate Muir drops into New York's latest hotspot where the literati and the Briterati come to eat and pose

man's club, with oriental rugs, panelling and leather sofas, Nell's had a strict door policy, and anyone she did not find amusing or outrageous was cast aside. Cher did not make it — "too much fringe," says Nell. Eddie Murphy was sent away because he refused to pay the cover charge of \$10, and not were exceptions made for Madonna or Mick Jagger.

Brat novelist Bret Easton Ellis, Jay McInerney and Tama Janowitz drew on the club for various scenes. You get the picture.

Time is not kind to nightclubs, and although Nell's survives to this day, its glitzy clientele does not. Instead, they have grown up. They go to restaurants for conversation. They use chablis rather than cocaine. Yet, somehow, they found the Upper East Side just a touch staid. What they needed was a club for people like themselves.

Nell says she will be available to discuss such matters at 3pm on Monday, but when I arrive, she is all in a panic. "Darling! Woody's casting agent called. She wants me to go and see him this afternoon." Her voice rises. "And I must have a manicure."

We place the tape recorder among the nail varnish and cuticle cream at a beauty salon round the corner. This being

the Upper East Side, grand ladies are having their hair backcombed, while pooches lurk under the swivel chairs.

Nell says Woody Allen is casting his latest film right now, and surely her early acting experience in the *Rocky Horror Show* and, more recently, playing a promiscuous actress for five months off-Broadway should stand her in good stead? "Apparently he doesn't meet your eye," she says. "He just looks you in the stomach. Maybe I'll put a Kiosk postcard there, and he'll notice."

This conveniently brings us to the second part of Nell's plan — to whip the title of most celebrity-snubbed restaurant from Elaine's, also on the Upper East Side. Mr Allen is, of course, Elaine's favourite customer, and featured the restaurant in his film *Manhattan*. The crowd was always full of actors and writers — Elaine Stritch tended the bar one slow summer and Norman Mailer and Gay Talese were regulars.

Now Elaine and her 30-year-old restaurant are getting a little long in the tooth. The food is expensive and dated, as are the *Seventies* magazine covers on the bathroom walls. If the Woodsters, as they call him here, were to walk a few blocks south from Elaine's to

'I haven't danced naked on the tables for a bit'

The Kiosk, who knows what or who might follow? "I don't mean for it to be a kind of personality-based restaurant," she says. "I just want it to have great atmosphere." But her actions belie this.

Even if Nell never becomes a character in an Allen film, she behaves like one. At forty-something, with a Louise Brooks red bob and an acerbic wit, she delivers charming greetings and wicked asides in a deadpan half-English, half-Australian accent.

She looks out from under an old-fashioned Dalek-shaped hairdryer and growls: "There are too many small dogs up here. I don't like it." Indeed, there are dozens of pike and poodle-like animals which seem unable to walk, but are carried under their mistresses' arms.

Upper East Side, however, is where the money is, and Nell and her co-owners, Lynne Wagenknecht and Eamon Roche, wanted to bring some downtown style uptown. (Roche, a sculptor, is also Nell's younger man.) "We didn't want to create anything too formal like most of the places round here," she says, refusing any half-polish. "We wanted the sort of neighbourhood bar where people go when they don't want to cook that night."

Seeing as dinner for two without dessert recently cost \$88 (about £55), not cooking is by no means cheap. But, as Nell points out, no one cooks in New York — they either go out or get caterers. "Look — I went to make a cup of tea the other morning and I went to three cupboards before I found the one with the mugs in it. That's how long it's been since I cooked. I've been working round the clock."

In Nell's case, "round the clock" is no exaggeration. Her hours hosting Nell's ran from 9pm to 5am. "I never saw daylight. I used to wake up at



Nell Campbell, table-dancing owner of The Kiosk restaurant: she wanted to bring some downtown style uptown

three and be faintly composed by five in the afternoon."

Where once she lay in bed in the afternoons worrying about which Vivienne Westwood to wear, now she rises in the morning wondering: "Did that fish have too much sauce

on the side and how am I gonna get a better bus boy?" Will Nell ever dance naked on tables again? "I haven't danced on the tables for a bit but that doesn't mean I'm not going to." She winks, and heads off to see Woody.

Joanna Pitman on the curious lack of an imperial pregnancy for the Japanese Crown Prince

Why no patter of tiny feet?



Princess Masako: baby duty not yet done

the subway gas attacks, meted out on an errant Japan by Shinto gods angered by years of financial profligacy and sagging morals?

In Japan, getting straight down to baby production after marriage is not a matter of choice but a social obligation, doubly so for the eldest son who must continue the *honke*,

or main trunk of the family tree. But for the eldest son of the Emperor, who will one day become Japan's 126th Emperor, this failure is being seen as a dereliction of national duty.

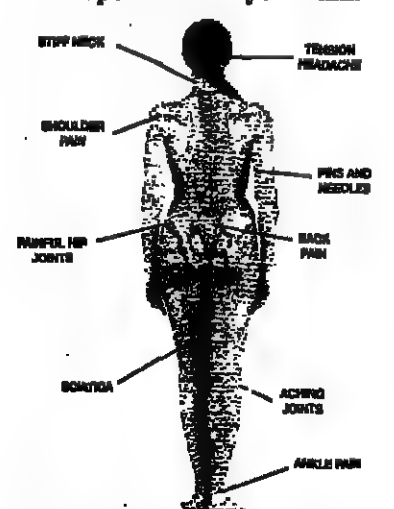
The prince is a thoroughly nice and diligent young man of 34 who had a relatively normal royal upbringing in Japan, and then spent two years at Oxford where he learnt to use money, ride a bicycle and make his own bed. His bride is likewise a studious type, the daughter of a top diplomat. Last December she celebrated her 31st birthday with a rare appearance before the cameras, and said: "From now on, I would like to fully carry out all my duties as the Crown Princess while helping the Emperor and Empress together with the Crown Prince."

AS IMPERIAL statements go, this was relatively hot stuff. The couple's romance, at least as reported in the press, had been conducted with impeccable formality. After the concert in 1986 when, as they say in romantic novels, Masako met her destiny, the pair had seen each other perhaps a dozen times and never alone. When she finally accepted the prince's proposal in 1993 ("not without misgivings", as she later confessed on television) she actually said: "I shall do my best to be of service to your highness."

Masako's single most important service, all Japan feels, is to produce an heir to continue the imperial line.

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Dodging the EMU questions

Yesterday's report was downright dishonest, says Anatole Kaletsky

To read yesterday's Kingsdown inquiry on Britain's potential membership of the European monetary union is to achieve a sudden insight into why British economic policy failed so catastrophically in the years before 1992. Lord Kingsdown, who used to be called Robin Leigh-Pemberton, was Governor of the Bank of England throughout that period.

After reading yesterday's report, the Bank's failure to act as any kind of steady counterweight against the increasingly maniacal monetary policies during this wayward period is all too easy to understand.

The Kingsdown report is economically incoherent and full of logical contradictions. At various points it argues, for example, that there is no logical link between a monetary and a political union and says there is no necessary reason why a single currency should impose constraints on the powers of Parliament to spend and tax in accordance with the democratic will.

Yet in its conclusions, the report repeatedly asserts that "the plan for EMU is politically-driven" and adds that it must be weighed "in terms of the broader considerations of European integration".

Worse still, the Kingsdown report is marked by the uncanny devotion to European consensus for its own sake and at almost any cost which did such immense damage to Britain's economic and intellectual life during the ERM period — and which still makes any defence of conventional wisdom on monetary union in countries like France and Spain completely taboo.

To apply economics to Lord Kingsdown's main conclusion — that Britain should join a single currency as soon as possible — is almost pointless. This is because his inquiry has quite deliberately hedged its terms of reference in such a way that sophisticated economic arguments simply cannot be applied. For Lord Kingsdown and his colleagues decided to address themselves to a "comparatively simple question". They "merely sought responses to the practical question: if other countries in Europe go ahead with a single currency, should Britain join them?"

To do this, they questioned a large number of businessmen and financiers, as well as a handful of Establishment economists and politicians with reliably consensual views.

This seemingly down-to-earth approach — to eschew abstract philosophy and instead ask practical men practical questions — might superficially appeal to the pragmatic streak in the British character. But John Bull should take a close look at the fine print before signing up to Lord Kingsdown's main conclusion — that "if there is a monetary union, and if it works, it is in Britain's interests to be part of it". For that little phrase "if it works" was not dropped by accident into the report's recommendation.

In fact, the committee took at the outset an all-important decision which completely discredited its entire approach. This was the decision not "to go back to first principles and ask absolutely basic questions like Is Monetary Union a Good Idea?" Again this is a phrase designed to appeal to robust common sense: the British have always preferred solving practical problems to debating "absolutely basic questions".

But in the argument over EMU this down-to-earth approach guarantees disaster. First, it diverts the debate away from all the important arguments about monetary union and focuses attention on relatively trivial matters.

The three most important issues regarding a single currency are whether it would produce steady economic growth or long-term depression, whether it would lead inexorably to a political union, and whether it would ally or intensify nationalist rivalries in Europe.

Without having a clear view on these three issues it is literally impossible to say anything worthwhile about whether or not Britain should join. Yet these are the kind of "absolutely basic issues" the Kingsdown report deliberately fudges.

Instead it expresses strong (though largely unsubstantiated) views about the alleged costs to industry and the City of being left out of EMU and about the misery for ministers of diplomatic isolation in the EU.

The second danger of Lord Kingsdown's pragmatism is more insidious and perhaps even more important. If the debate on EMU turns into an argument over political tactics and timing, the decision to join is in danger of becoming a fait accompli. This is exactly what has already happened on the Continent of Europe — with disastrous consequences not only for monetary policy but also for the credibility of democratic politics in countries such as Spain and France.

The "practical" approach to discussing monetary union, encouraged by Lord Kingsdown, and vigorously promoted by the European Commission in the recent green paper, is to discredit all principled opponents of monetary union as impractical dreamers — just as the notorious Madrid Conditions of 1990 marginalised Lady Thatcher in her opposition to membership of the ERM.

For a supposedly authoritative commission to claim to have reached a conclusion on Britain's EMU membership without forming a view on how EMU would work is like a judge deciding whether a man should be hanged, shot or decapitated without bothering to decide whether he is guilty or not.

It is simply dishonest for Lord Kingsdown to say that Britain should join EMU "if it works". First he must stick his neck out and predict what actually it will work, and define what exactly that would mean.

The vital question is: will monetary union work?



When obstinacy is idiocy

Thirty years of anger, and all over a matter of a five-shilling fine

We have been here before, and it will go hard but we shall be here many times again. That, you may think, must be boring, but it isn't: indeed, the longer it goes on, the more fascinating it becomes. I, for one, hearing of it this time, plumped up the cushions, and had a decanter handy, in rich expectation, not was I disappointed. And now you want to know what I am talking about. You shall.

The very headline is ripe for agnosticism. For it reads, in its entirety, "Postman harboured 30-year grudge over fine". Roll that round your mouth, shake your head, sign audibly, look at the nearest person and inevitably look away. For a human being has passed this way, and another will shortly do so, and so will many, many others, until the earth stops going round and goes back to its original cold, and serve it right.

Meanwhile, "Postman harboured 30-year grudge over fine". Thirty years? Thirty? And what, you obviously want to know at once, was the terrible thing that caused the terrible grudge? You shall know when I get to the point, though I think that some of you, having seen the answer, had wished that you had not.

Thirty years is a long time, and counting in days it comes to some eleven thousand. Eleven thousand? Do it in hours, and it comes to more than a quarter of a million. And minutes? Call it sixteen million, and don't bother with the seconds.

But you must bother now, because the human being takes over: the Reluctant Postman's heart beats at roughly the same rate as his opponent's, which is some seventy-five times a minute. Oh, dogged postman, how are you at arithmetic? For if you have even a smattering of that simple mystery, you will be able to say how many times your heart has beaten in those thirty awful years, and beats yet.

Very well. Thirty years ago, postman Martin Fitzgerald was reported by a policeman for riding his bicycle after dusk without lights: the policeman's name was Stella Kilvington. For the offence he was fined five shillings.

Five shillings. I see blank faces around me; all right. "Shillings" were coins, five of which in today's currency would be 25p. He had been fined 25p and for thirty years, thirty years, he had nursed a hate of the officer who booked him, all the while insisting that he had not broken the law.

Time went by for you and me and the world, and indeed for Policewoman Kilvington, who retired from the force in 1966. But it did not go by for Martin Fitzgerald. For him, time had stopped thirty years ago, and still the thought of the five shillings burnt in his pocket and "Still it cried, 'Sleep no more!' to all the house: Ghamis hath murdered sleep, and therefore Cawdor Shall sleep no more, Macbeth shall sleep no more!"

The years passed; and still no recompense came for him; Policewoman (ret.) Kilvington had long forgotten everything about the five-shilling fine, which only stoked the fires for Mr Fitzgerald, as he went deeper and deeper into oblivion, until he could bear oblivion no more. He would tear off the bandage and make his enemies see the bruises. He did, by sending offensive Christmas cards, until the law stepped in. And now if you have shivers, prepare to shiver them now, for law or no law, nothing could shake his immovable belief that he was right and everybody else was wrong. From beginning to end his flag flew, and from beginning to end, it said "I am right". Now just for a moment, let us try to put ourselves in Mr Fitzgerald's place. We deny the charge, we go red in the face, we splutter with anger when we go into the dock, knowing that we are innocent and that we did not ride a bicycle after dusk without lights. And then, when Pelion has been piled on Ossa, we are fined 25p. We go home raging at the injustice, we swear very shockingly, we say things about the magistrate that the magistrate's young children should in no circumstances hear, and for days, perhaps weeks, a month even, we growl at the wrongdoing, and then we get on with our lives — though occasionally, perhaps once a year something jogs our memory — and we mutter about "that bloody copper" and put our thumbs to our noses.

That is what we do, but it is not what Mr Fitzgerald does, and what I want to know is exactly where the chalk line runs: where we remain on one side and he the other.

Obstinacy: we are all obstinate about something, but we do not destroy our lives over it. Injustice: there is enough injustice to fill the world, our little drop would not be noticed. Envy: he has much, I have little, I burn with the way the world has been made, but I promise to work harder and get more. Dishonesty: he didn't get that huge house and Rolls-Royce honestly, and so what? Luck: Why don't I get it, when my neighbour does, because that's how the luck goes. Oh, yes, we have all crossed our arms and played Lurker at Worms: here I stand. But we go indoors if it starts raining. A very dear friend of mine, many years ago, was embroiled in a matter in which he was being swindled by a crook. There was no doubt at all that the crook was swindling him, but my friend alarmed me by saying that if all fails he would kill the crook. I looked at my friend, and I suddenly realised that he meant it.

I spent the night talking him out of murder, and as a *bonne-bouche* persuaded him to give in to the swindler altogether.

There is a much grimmer story of those who will not give in: it is the terrible picture of Hitler, in the last hours, with a map in his hand that was disintegrating as he twisted it, demanding to know "When will Weenck and Ninth Army join?", though he was in the bunker and there was no Weenck and no Ninth Army left.

There are, to be sure, examples of heroic obstinacies: who would not admire the Spartans at Thermopylae? And, a few steps down, we must, however grudgingly, admire that tiresome nuisance called Charles de Gaulle.

One of these days, I shall write a book called *How to give in gracefully*.

Bernard Levin

But it will be a tremendous flop. (Tim, the beloved cat of my infancy, would royally wave away a mouse, but that was because it was beneath his dignity to kill it.)

But human beings — oh, human beings! Let us go back to the beginning with the postman and his grudge.

There is something that I did not tell you at first, and I shiver again when I tell you now. When Mr Fitzgerald was prosecuted he was 22 years old. That means that he was 22 when he had his brush with the law. At 22 did he really give up his future to spend his entire life pursuing five shillings, or did he just stoke the fire from time to time?

Truly to speak, and with no addition, We go to gain a little patch of ground That hath in it no profit but the name. To pay five dollars, five, I would not farm it: Nor will it yield in Norway or the Pole A ranker race, should it be said in fee.

But it seems Mr Fitzgerald thought it worth most of his life to nurse his grudge, where they "Have in these parts from morn till even fought, and sheathed their swords for lack of argument".

Well, our hero did not lack argument: for him, there was one cause, one fight, one victory. I wonder whether he brandished his grudge among the villagers where he lived and worked, or hugged his burning outrage lest someone might come along and pour water on it? It cannot be that he found himself a failure when it all happened, because he was only 22, and it would be a very gloomy youngster of that age who was already despairing. But then, when evening came and he rode his bicycle without lights — or with lights for that matter — his world and life more or less ended.

What waste! What tenacity! What folly! Did he waver at moments — perhaps at anniversaries? Did he ever think that he might have made a mistake in the first place? We all make mistakes, so why not him?

Did he, does he, think that it was all worthwhile? Should we pity him? I do, surely, but for all I know he would spurn an outstretched hand. And — it is almost sacrilege to ask — has he given up his cause, or does he fight on still? But the waste! The waste!

Philip Howard



Elementary, my dear Watson. I'm a closet Frog

I must have been early in June of the year 1995 that I made my way back to our old set of rooms at 221B, Baker Street. My practice was quiet, and frankly I needed to escape from the unrelenting forms that our group practice manager, an efficient young woman in rimless spectacles, kept on giving me to fill in.

When I opened that familiar door, as usual I was engulfed by a blue cloud of tobacco smoke. But it was even more pungent than Holmes's customary coarse shag. I was astonished to see the great detective puffing a Gauloise in a long holder. And instead of his deerstalker and Inverness cape, he was wearing a beret and what our French neighbours describe so quaintly as an *smoking*, with a frilly magenta shirt that would have raised eyebrows (and black balls) at the Diogenes Club.

Accustomed as I was to my friend's mastery of the arts of disguise, I was overcome and collapsed into the well-worn leather armchair. "Mon vieux," cried Holmes, "I regret a thousand times to have startled you. Ring the bell. Let us restore you." But the bell was answered not by the matronly form of Mrs Hudson but by a young French woman with a skirt and manner shorter than would have found favour with our old landlady.

"Fifi," cried Holmes, "a drink for Dr Watson. I am afraid we have run out of your medicinal whisky. But I can recommend our sweet aperitifs and strops."

"Holmes," I gasped, "what is going on? Why are you playing a stage Frenchman? I am inclined to think..."

You should do so," Sherlock Holmes remarked sharply. "Read these." And he tossed over a bundle of dog-eared press cuttings. But they came not from his old bumbling-ground of human drama, the Agony Column of *The Times*, but from foreign journals with unfamiliar print and strange names such as *Le Figaro* and *Le Canard Enchaîné*.

And they reported that the French have at last taken my friend in a big way, and now run 135 *Shitcock* Holmes societies. They are named after the Franco-Midland Hardware Company Limited (La Quincailleterie Franco-Midland), the company in *The Stockbroker's Clerk* that supposedly operated 134 branches in France.

Remarkable," I ejaculated. "Banality," said Holmes. "You yourself noticed in your account of the case you misguidedly chose to call *The Greek Interpreter* that my grandmother was the sister of the French artist, Joseph Verne. If you were not so damnably monoglot in the Anglo-Indian of the Raj, you might have picked up further clues of my French connection."

"By Jove," I cried, "do remember your tracking and arrest of Huret, the Boulevard assassin, and your letter of thanks and the Order of the Legion of Honour from the French President."

"But, my dear old Chota Pég," said Holmes, "have you not noticed that I frequently use French words and phrases? Do you not recall to yourself how I deduced that the note in *A Scandal in Bohemia* could not have been written by a Frenchman? And I was right. It turned out to be from the King of Bohemia. How about the months I spent at Montpellier doing research into the coal-tar derivatives? In what you erroneously described as my *Final Problem* with Professor Moriarty, the Napoleon of crime, where did I write from?"

"From Nimes and Narbonne," I breathed. "Where I recall that you had been engaged by the French Government. By George, Holmes, you are nothing but a closet Frog."

A smug smile disturbed that hawk's face. "Not all literary figures attract chubs," said Holmes. "Such detectives as Inspector Maigret, Arsène Lupin, Roubaud, and that ridiculous little Belgian who boasts of his little grey cells have no societies dedicated to proving their existence. For that you need a complex oeuvre. You need an opportunity for cod scholarship and silly titles. There must be a combination of Gallic logic with batty Anglo-Saxon imagination. Not all English literary or political expeditions across the Channel are satisfactory. But when it comes to the singular fan-dorn of fiction, c'est élémentaire, mon cher Watson. Nous sommes les nationaux."

Royal oats

ANDREW MORTON is again to make money out of the Princess of Wales. His latest endeavour has been a supplementary chapter to his most recent book *Diana: Her New Life*.

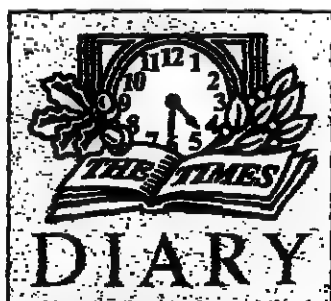
The 10,000-word account has

been the subject of ferocious bidding among the tabloid newspapers which one would expect to be interested in such lip-smacking literature. The auction finally saw Morton's finely-honed prose reach a sum of about £50,000 or £5 per word.

Newspaper sources confirmed that the book had been sold. Sir Nicholas Lloyd, Editor of the *Daily Express*, said however that his paper was not the lucky winner of the auction. "Morton is ludicrously expensive," he spluttered.

Little is being said about the content of Morton's latest typing efforts. Yesterday, his publisher Michael O'Mara was unusually coy about the addition to the sequel. "I do not have any comment at all," said a spokeswoman. As the Princess is known to have become fed up with Morton's interest in her career, he clearly has more difficulty in reporting her everyday activities. He is expected to reveal, however, an exciting new detail of the Princess's behaviour: she tucks into a bowl of muesli at breakfast.

● LUCIAN Freud could be found studiously inspecting the paintings



of fellow artist Michael Tree at Lumley Caxat Gallery on Wednesday evening. Tree is married to the Duke of Devonshire's youngest daughter Lady Anne and a portrait in oils of their daughter Esther was being much admired by Freud and others. "My husband already owns that one," she laughed. "I'm trying to persuade him to buy one of my father's sketches of me now."

Brave lady

ONE OF the worthy award winners at the Catholic Women of the Year awards in London yesterday was Sally Trench, who, even after capture and torture at the hands of the Serbs, has persevered in helping the stricken in Bosnia. At the Russell Hotel yesterday she was reconciled with a childhood adversary.

At 15, Trench was expelled from the Convent of Our Lady at St Leonards-on-Sea after illicit night-time visits to see a horse. The decision was taken by Mother Mary Peter. Among those, including the Duchess of Norfolk, who welcomed Trench to the awards was Sister (as she is now) Mary Peter. "It was a small school and you had too strong a personality for us," said the nun forgivingly. "She was very wild but wrote very nicely."

Mellor's tale

AS the unauthorised biography of Mark Thatcher, *Thatcher's Gold*, returns to the bookshops after a legal blip, one of its authors has been approached to do a follow-up: the life and loves of David Mellor. Former *Private Eye* journalist Paul Halloran has been asked to write the life story of the fun-loving MP. While interested, he is slightly embarrassed that he and Mellor currently share the same publishers, Simon & Schuster. "A considerable advance has been spoken of," says Halloran. "I am considering my position."

Evens Evans

THOSE LOOKING for an extra wager at the Derby tomorrow may

care to consider a flutter on the outcome of a special off-course event. Among the guests at a picnic hosted by Lester Piggott in a marquee at Epsom are Pierce Brosnan, the new James Bond, and the hyperactive Radio 1 presenter, Chris Evans. To date, they have not hit it off.

On his breakfast show recently Evans gave a curt opinion of the 007 actor, accusing him of chatting up his girlfriend, the lissom Suzi Aplin, at a party. A spokeswoman for Brosnan retorted: "Chris should have been flattered that Pierce found his girlfriend so appealing." Bonfire aficionados should study the form carefully.

Flies back

EVEN MORE than normal Dickie Bird was being careful not to put a foot wrong out on the Headingly wicket yesterday. Cricketer can be a dangerous game even for umpires and their dozen is only just match-fit again after a nasty injury sustained during a Yorkshire and Cambridge University match.

"I was running and got into some old footholes. My knee came up like a balloon," he says. Thanks to delicate keyhole surgery, he has made a full recovery. "The surgeon found a lot of rubbish on the knee — there is you know — and washed it out."



Dickie Bird: recovered

● THE STORY of the night Paddy Ashdown panicked can now be told. At 3am the phone rang at the bedside of Olly Grender, the Lib Dems' ever-patient communications chief. "It was Paddy. He said he thought an IRA bomb had gone off," said Grender at her farewell party on Wednesday night as she departed for the housing charity, Shelter. "He kept on saying: 'Check it out. I'm sure a bomb's gone off.' I told him it was a clap of thunder. Then we both laughed hysterically."

P-H-S



CURRENCY CRUNCH

To join in European monetary union or not to join

The question of a single currency is quite unlikely to arise for some time, John Major declared yesterday. He could not be more wrong. The question of a single currency is on everyone's lips at Westminster already. The Cabinet truce may still be holding, but behind the baize doors, the jostling is as frantic as it was in the spring. The Prime Minister cannot escape its consequences.

Yesterday, a report was published by the Action Centre for Europe, grandly titled *The Kingsdown Enquiry*. Chaired by a former Governor of the Bank of England, it concluded that Britain should join a single currency, whatever the economic, political or constitutional implications, because the consequences of not joining would be too damaging. It even decided Britain's opt-out. Among the governing council members of ACE are Kenneth Clarke, David Hunt and Stephen Dorrell.

These Cabinet ministers cannot be held personally responsible for the views of the report's authors. But Mr Clarke himself asked Lord Kingsdown, known for his pro-single currency stance, to chair the inquiry. The ministers may be annoyed at the timing of the report but they cannot be too sorry that the pro-integration case is being made. Under the terms of the truce, no Cabinet minister, least of all the Chancellor, is allowed to express views on what is one of the most important issues for the future of Britain. They have to conduct their arguments by proxy, and they fear that the opposite case is being made by default.

For some months, Mr Major has been making noises that mollify party sceptics. He is now being advised that, if he wants to prevent a challenge to his leadership from Norman Lamont, he should promise that Britain would not enter a single currency in the lifetime of the next Parliament. When this idea was first mooted, Mr Clarke, Douglas Hurd and Michael Heseltine are said to have told the Prime Minister that it would be a great mistake. The other EU members would gang up against Britain in

revenge, making it impossible for this country to achieve anything else in Europe. This is what the Foreign Office claims about anything that might annoy either France or Germany. And whether or not Mr Major believes it, he would be only human if he put his own survival above Mr Hurd's discomfiture in the Council of Ministers.

But the advantages of such a pledge would not just be personal. They would also be political. If Britain wants to retain the option to join a single currency in 1999 then, by the Maastricht timetable, it would have to rejoin the exchange-rate mechanism at the beginning of 1997. In a general election campaign in, say, autumn 1996, the Tories could promise that Britain would not rejoin the hated ERM, thereby putting Labour on the defensive. If Mr Blair still wanted the chance of entering a single currency in 1999, he would have to put sterling back into the mechanism: a highly unpopular political move.

Labour could still benefit from moving on to the ground that Mr Major had just vacated. It could portray itself as the party that was keeping options open, while the Tories had closed them off. But Mr Major could credibly retort that Britain would be better off observing a single currency in action for a few years: if it were a huge success and Britain were suffering from exclusion, then the option would remain of joining in a subsequent Parliament.

The Tory Euro-enthusiasts are still extremely unhappy about Mr Major making such a pledge. So far the opposition of Mr Clarke in particular seems to have acted as a block on the Prime Minister. But Mr Major, boosted by his recent robust performance over Bosnia, can afford to call his bluff. The balance of opinion in Cabinet has shifted towards the sceptics. There are enough Major loyalists and sceptics now for the Prime Minister to win a majority for such a position. Mr Heseltine's political ambition will doubtless ensure that he votes the right way. Messrs Clarke and Hurd will simply have to accept the views of their colleagues.

MANDELA'S SHOTS

Some good may come from the President's new humility

Candid or ill-advised, open or provocative, honest or arrogant: any or all of these words could describe Nelson Mandela's recent admission that he had last year, instigated security guards at his party's headquarters in Johannesburg to defend the building against demonstrators from the Inkatha Freedom Party — "even if they had to kill people". Arguably, South Africa's President should not have made the admission at all. Certainly, his words have dented his prestige among those not of the African National Congress, and contributed to a loss by the ANC of the moral high ground to which it has long laid claim.

The latter is, in fact, a positive development. If Mr Mandela and the ANC now find it more difficult to preach to the IFP and the National Party and to talk down to them, they will find it more difficult also to ignore the proposals and criticisms which those parties make from time to time. The Government of National Unity, which has so far been little more than a vehicle for ANC hegemony, might now at last begin to live up to its well-intentioned name.

There has been heated talk in some quarters of prosecuting Mr Mandela for breach of the criminal law. Such talk should be dismissed as foolish. Mr Mandela is not the only person who needs to answer for the events which led to bloodshed on the streets of central Johannesburg last year. F.W. de Klerk was then President of South Africa and responsible for security. He was harsh in his criticism last year of those who marched on the ANC headquarters, and his

silence in this week's debate indicates that fault lay not with the ANC alone.

Silent, too, has been Chief Mangosuthu Buthe, even as MPs from his party raged against Mr Mandela. Only a proper judicial inquiry will establish for certain the extent to which the IFP marchers gave serious enough provocation to the ANC's security guards. But provocation there was, as much in the event itself as in the violent and murky times in which the shootings occurred. This week's debate and confrontation have focused on the country's recent past: yet this past will poison South Africa's future if its leaders fail to purge the country's body politic of its tenacious venom.

On the defensive, and acutely aware that the political temperature had risen far higher than is healthy for the eve of important local elections, Mr Mandela convened a meeting of his ministers on Wednesday. Few Cabinet meetings can have been as tense as this one: but, as if aware that the country could fall swiftly into disorder, the President, Chief Buthe and Mr de Klerk agreed to temper the tone of their political rhetoric. A committee has now been formed — consisting of the three men and Thabo Mbeki, the Deputy President — to look urgently into the problem of escalating violence in KwaZulu/Natal. As with the violence at the ANC headquarters, the strife in Chief Buthe's province stems from political disaffection. If Mr Mandela, in his period of humility, were to engage seriously with the Zulu question, some good will have come from his risky admission.

PIERS OF THE REALM

How Southend can survive the fire

The Victorians loved to walk on water. Thanks to their engineering ingenuity, their zeal for setting frontiers ever wider and a generous use of cast iron, they were able to indulge their passion around the country's coastline. As the middle classes flocked to the seaside, sleepy resorts responded with bathing machines, boarding houses, promenades — and piers. By the turn of the century, more than 100 girdered structures stretched out from the land, breezy and bracing, where winkle stalls, bandstands, penny-in-the-slot machines and deckchairs attracted trippers and defied waves below.

Fewer than half remain. Storms, erosion, neglect and accidents have taken a toll. Some piers, built to accommodate the coastal steamers, were partially demolished during the war to prevent enemy landings. Others were struck by vessels or sliced in half by runaway rigs. One of the worst threats has been fire — as Britain's longest pier, Southend, has again learnt to its cost. The blaze that destroyed the bowling alley on Wednesday was the third to engulf the pier since it was opened in 1889. Coming so soon after the £3 million restoration to mark the centenary of Southend's most celebrated landmark, the fire throws into jeopardy the future of all the rickety piers that have, over the years, been loaded down with pavilions, pubs, amusement arcades and dogdens.

As a species, piers are endangered. Any close inspection of the barnacle-encrusted supports and creaking oak slats would frighten the underwriters in this litigious

age. Without the crowds that used to arrive in their millions, few are economic, and many are now a drain on municipal resources. They are no longer needed by steamers and pleasure cruisers. Long out of fashion, they have mostly been taken over by cheap funfairs, elderly anglers and karaoke to drown out the seagulls. They have lost even the quaintness of period vulgarity: the saucy poscard, the billowing bloomers, the coffee-apples and kiss-me-quick hats.

Yet especially in their twilight, piers are winning belated recognition of their daring and delights. Southend has announced that it will, yet again, restore its pier. Brighton has committed itself to keeping its Palace Pier going, though the marooned remnants of the West Pier await a deep-pocketed saviour. Colwyn Bay Pier has been bought by a local businessman who is spending £1.5 million on its refurbishment.

Money, as last, is becoming available for their preservation. Bangor Pier found salvation in European Union grants. Others have tapped the resources of English Heritage. Council taxes boost local conservation. And new benefactors have appeared: the National Lottery and the Millennium Fund. Piers must, of course, market themselves, and clear their decks of clutter. A funfair belongs properly on land, not as a fire hazard perched above the sea. But they offer the simple pleasures of fresh air, fishing and fun. The nation is again discovering these Victorian values around its coastline. Now is the time to save them from the waves.

World's involvement in the quagmire of Bosnia

From Professor Harry G. Gelber

Sir, Some of the current breast-beating about Britain's and Europe's "powerlessness" in Bosnia seems uncommonly silly.

At the height of Britain's power, in the late 19th century (and in spite of Gladstone's justified worries about Bulgarian massacres), the idea that Britain could pacify the Balkans would have been universally considered preposterous. The Balkan wars of 1911-13 ran their course without Western intervention. The Germans and Italians (no doubt fortunately) quite failed to subdue the region during the Second World War.

There are three conditions, and only three, under which conflicts like the one in Bosnia could end. There might be agreement among the parties, possibly only after they are sufficiently exhausted. There might come more of a strong and entirely unselfish local ruler like the late Marshal Tito. Or the region might be incorporated into an empire (by that or any other name) able and willing to keep the peace.

That might be an Austro-Hungarian or Turkish empire, as in the past, or a possible Russian empire of the future. No doubt other forms of empire or quasi-empire are conceivable. But nothing in the constitution or record of the European Union suggests that any of its members have the faintest intention of developing it into such an entity.

It is also clear that Western objectives in Bosnia have changed. Apart from a continuing, but subordinate, concern with humanitarian issues, the West began by wanting to secure a peaceful settlement. The focus now is twofold: how to get out without loss of

face, and how to stop the war (or the reviving Russian empire) from spreading.

Yours sincerely,
HARRY G. GELBER,
Boston University,
Department of Political Science,
745 Commonwealth Avenue,
Boston, Massachusetts 02215.
June 6.

From Mr D. Barton

Sir, Mr Ryder's reference to religious differences in Bosnia (letter, June 5) is simplistic. In Bosnia as in Northern Ireland, religion has been a cloak — or excuse — for essentially political ambitions, a convenient bog with which to frighten the unsophisticated into one political camp or the other.

In reality, religion as such is no more a source of political friction in the Balkans than it is in France, Germany, or Britain. Moreover, Bosnia is in no sense a theocratic state: like our own, it has embraced and accommodated all religions.

If it should ever become a host to militant Islam it will be entirely due to Orthodox Serb politicking and West European myopia.

Yours,
D. BARTON,
Christophers,
Pountney Copse, Alton, Hampshire.
June 6.

From Mr S. P. Whitley

Sir, In his letter (June 1) about Bosnia, Mr George Thomas says that British soldiers should not be ordered to risk their lives in any UN operation "if Britain's national interest is not clearly at stake".

That principle, he must then allow,

should apply to all soldiers of all nation states, the world over. But, if so, why bother about having a UN, or indeed a Nato, at all? Much simpler and more honest, surely, to revert, totally and avowedly, to the law of the jungle.

Yours faithfully,
S. P. WHITLEY,
Flat 2,
5 Palmeira Avenue, Hove, Sussex.
June 1.

From Mr Richard Braithwaite

Sir, Mr Chris Young (letter, June 5) believes that the Bosnian Serbs, by referring to the detained UN troops as prisoners of war, "have declared that a state of war exists between themselves and the United Nations". Such a state of war had, in effect, already been declared by the UN; if their air strikes at Bosnian Serb targets, for right or for wrong, were not an act of war, I do not know what is.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
R. BRAITHWAITE,
73 Lodge Road,
Southampton, Hampshire.
June 5.

From Dr W. J. Rosenfelder

Sir, It is sad to see in your report (later editions, June 5) that one of the reasons given by Treasury sources for resisting Mrs Shephard's bid for an extra £1 billion to be spent on education is the cost of "the escalating British involvement in Bosnia". Should we not get our priorities right?

Yours sincerely,
WALTER J. ROSENFELDER,
44 Meadow,
Hampstead Garden Suburb, NW11.

Springing to the defence of barristers in the regions

From Mr Andrew Edis

Sir, As one of the regional barristers singled out for exceptional praise in your report of June 2, "Soldiers boycott slow and arrogant regional barristers" it is perhaps churlish to complain. However, since the article was unfair to the regional Bar generally, it would be wrong not to.

Your report was based on a small survey conducted by a magazine, *Legal Business*, which spoke to 40 solicitors, barristers and clerks throughout the country. Since the survey was concerned only with private-client commercial work (as opposed to crime, family, personal injuries and other civil work) it ought not to be used to stigmatise the regional Bar as a whole.

The fact that some solicitors do not believe that there is a good commercial Bar in a particular provincial centre is simply irrelevant to the quality of services provided by barristers practising there in other fields.

Your report refers to me as an exceptional "star". This is by no means the case. I thrive, in so far as I do, because I exist in a milieu of competent and competitive colleagues of equal, and in many cases greater, skill and experience.

The Liverpool Bar is quite rightly mentioned for special praise, but my experience is that Manchester also possesses an enormous reservoir of specialist legal expertise among barristers in all types of work including commercial work. I have no doubt that

a strong regional Bar, such as already exists, is necessary to the economic, convenient and efficient administration of justice across the country.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW EDIS,
14 Castle Street, Liverpool 2.
June 6.

From Mr Roger Kaye, QC

Chairman of the Bristol and Cardiff Chancery Bar Association

Sir, Your report fails to acknowledge the steady increase since 1982 in the number of well-respected local specialist barristers in chancery and commercial work in Bristol and Cardiff.

These two Bars, combined with that of Birmingham, handle one third of all provincial chancery cases outside London: specialist chancery courts are established in all three cities, supervised by a regularly visiting High Court judge, and there are also mercantile courts in Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol, the latter in response to demand from local practitioners. The number of specialist barristers in Bristol has risen from six in 1982 to 24 in 1995, including two London QCs who regularly travel to the city in response to local demand.

In each of these cities there is a regular and constant dialogue between local barristers and solicitors through court users' committees, training sessions and other local initiatives — all aimed at improving the service to the client.

Chambers use advanced computer-

based administration and information technology systems and "telecons" are common. Quill pens form no part of the provincial specialist barrister's armoury: you are more likely to find Internet or e-mail.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER KAYE,
Chairman, Bristol and Cardiff Chancery Bar Association,
St John's Chambers,
Small Street, Bristol, Avon.
June 5.

From Mr Jeremy Dable

Sir, "Survey exposes Dickensian Bar", you tell us, Mr Pickwick, who no longer gives his name when complaining to *The Times*, should step out of the past and visit Preston in 1995, where barristers send out their paperwork down modem lines and on computer disk.

I also beg to differ, being so very 'umble, with the unsupported assertion that arrogant regional barristers are uncompetitive on fees: compared with the older more traditional commercial sets in London we can compete quite comfortably.

Sadly we are unable to throw in a day's shopping in London.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY DABLE
(Barrister at law),
New Bailey Chambers,
10 Lawson Street,
Preston, Lancashire.
June 5.

case, private forestry should be subjugated almost entirely to the interests of landscape and conservation.

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY WHITAKER,
Totton Forest,
Totton Home Farm,
Lydbury North, Shropshire.

From Mr Peter Harland

Sir, The Association of Professional Foresters sympathises with the problems aired by Lord Gilsborough. It is worth adding that most forestry in the UK is strictly governed by the Forestry Authority (FA) whose expertise is highly regarded throughout the world. While foresters may complain about some conditions imposed on them, there is general agreement that this system is necessary and desirable.

All major forestry plans submitted to the FA go through a consultation process with a number of statutory bodies, including the planning authority. Planning officers should acknowledge that the FA ensures best practice wherever the woodlands are situated and that this is sufficient control. No felling or thinning can take place without FA approval.

The Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS) is a contract between the owner and the FA, agreed after consulting the planners, detailing work to be carried out and adherence to the Forestry Guidelines. It is then understood that if a WGS is in place on a conservation area (or other designation), no further controls are required.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HARLAND
(Vice-Chairman),
Association of Professional Foresters,
7-9 West Street,
Bedford, Northamptonshire.

Business letters, page 25

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Northern tongues ahead by a nose

From Mr Craig Sams

Sir, In your report (June 6) of the return of Orford Ness to popular access the geographical term "ness" is said to be derived from the French word *nez*.

However, *ness* as a geographical term antedates the Norman Conquest. The earliest English reference to a *ness* is *Hronas naesse* or "whale's nose", the mythical burial place of Beowulf, which in his dying words he hoped would be remembered as Beowulf's barrow.

The term, which occurs from Inverness to Dungeness and in Norway from Agdenes, near Trondheim, to Sandness, near Stavanger, reflects the roots of the word in Old English *naesse* or Old Norse *naes*.

While one sympathises with the French struggle to extirpate Anglicisms from their language, we should remember that much of Norman French was composed of Latinised Anglo-Saxon terms.

We should certainly not attribute Old English terms to their French counterparts on the easy assumption that if a word exists in French it must have predated any English usage.

Yours sincerely,
C. SAMs,
269 Fortobello Road, W11.
June 6.

Currency conversion

From Mr R. A. Kellaway

Sir, I wholeheartedly concur with the sentiments expressed by Mr Edward Reader (letter, June 5) about the currency conversion farce which currently prevails within the EC.

I am in the process of purchasing a retirement home in Spain and am facing the prospect of a paper increase in the price of the property of some £7,000 due to the weak position of sterling against the peseta.

This is despite the recent devaluation of Spain's national currency, and taking no account of the doubly penal charges levied for transferring the money through the international banking system, both in the UK and again in Spain.

As my fellow reader, Reader, stated — "roll on the ecu".

Yours faithfully,
R. A. KELLAWAY,
Peel House,
Coddanham, Ipswich, Suffolk.
June 6.

ENO successes

From Mr John Nickson

Sir, How can Anne McElvoy say, in her article on *Mahagonny* (arts, June 7), that this "has not been the best of seasons for English National Opera" when we have been nominated for four awards, won the Olivier Award for Best Opera Production (*Khovanshchina*), seen attendances rise by over 25 per cent and made a financial surplus in 1994-95?

We and our public are enjoying ENO's best season for years. A *Midsummer Night's Dream* is playing to packed houses and the public is clamouring for tickets for *Mahagonny* and *Tosca* before the season ends on July 1. Our spirits are high.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN NICKSON
(Director of Public Affairs),
English National Opera,
London Coliseum,
St Martin's Lane, WC2.
June 7.

Living for today

From Mr Kit Johnson

Sir, As a student in the midst of exams, I find that today I am doing what I should have done yesterday, and tomorrow I have to do what I should have done today (letters, June 1, 5, 7).

Yours,
K. JOHNSON,
41 Sotheby Road, NS.
June 5.

From Mrs Rosemary Jones

Sir, Your procrastinating correspondents are unlikely to be parents of young children. I have to get everything done today, as there is always the possibility that tomorrow one of them will be off school with spots or other suspicious symptoms.

Yours faithfully,
ROSEMARY JONES,
Furness Oak, Crouch House Road,
Edenbridge, Kent.
June 7.

From Mrs Janet Hancock

Sir, Having passed 65, how do I remember tomorrow what I put off doing today, when it has taken me two days to remember to post this?

Yours faithfully,
JANET HANCOCK,
Idle Cottage, 1 Bridge Cottages,
Llanfist, Abergavenny, Gwent.

From Mr Nigel Mayor

Sir, I have no problem in putting things off because, as we all know, tomorrow never comes.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL MAYOR,
The Rumbles,
Love Lane, Romsey, Hampshire.
June 7.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

June 8: His Excellency Dr Hussein Al-Amri was received in audience by the Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary of the Republic of Yemen to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy: Mr. Sultan Ghannem (Minister Plenipotentiary), Mr. Mahdi Al-Sakaf (Counsellor), Mr. Abdullah Al-Montaser (Counsellor), Mr. Ahmed Rial (First Secretary), Mr. Mohamed Al-Ahli (First Secretary), Mr. Fathi Al-Magham (Third Secretary) and Miss Fatima Al-Sakaf (Attache).

Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present and the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Mr James Daly was received in audience by Her Majesty upon his appointment as British High Commissioner to the Republic of Vietnam.

Mr James Daly was received by The Queen.

The Baroness Thatcher was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested her with the Most Noble Order of the Garter.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon visited the Cabinet Secretary Sir Robin Butler.

The Countess of Airlie, the Rt Hon Sir Robert Fellowes and Major James Patrick were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President, City and Guilds of London Institute, this morning presented the 1995 City and Guilds Prize Philip Medal and Silver and Bronze Medals at Buckingham Palace and afterwards attended a Luncheon at the Cornuaught Hotel, London W1.

Major Charles Richards was in attendance.

His Royal Highness this evening opened the Festival of Wedgwood Exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London SW1.

Sir Brian McGrath was in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

June 8: The Prince of Wales today visited Hull and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Humberside (Mr Anthony Bethell).

His Royal Highness this morning visited the Victoria Dock Village.

The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, afterwards visited the Gipsyville site.

His Royal Highness, President, The Prince's Trust, this afternoon attended a Festival of Youth at the Hull Ice Arena.

The Prince of Wales later visited Withernsea, North Humberside.

Mr Marjorie Butler was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will arrive at Crewe Station, Cheshire, at 9.50 will visit the Duchy of Lancaster Estate Office, Weston, at 10.15 and tour the estate.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as patron, will visit the Royal Burnham Yacht Club at 10.45 and will start the 1995 Royal Ocean Racing Club Burnham to Ower race.

The Duke of York will visit the Prince of Wales's Trust, at 12.45 for an annual highlighting the work of the trusts with young people in Yorkshire. Later, he will visit the Chappellown Action Learning Centre at Chappellown at 2.40.

The Duke of York will attend a dinner at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club, Hoylake, at 7.30 to mark the 100th amateur golf championship.

KENSINGTON PALACE

June 8: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, this morning was the Reviewing Officer at the Founders Day Parade, the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London SW3.

Mrs Charles Vyvyan and Major The Lord Napier and Ettrick were in attendance.

June 8: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Anglian Regiment, this afternoon received Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Horrell on relinquishing the appointment of Commanding Officer of the 5th Battalion and Lieutenant-Colonel David Baylis on assuming the appointment.

YORK HOUSE

June 8: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, this morning visited the Fire Service College, Slow Road, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Gloucestershire (Mr Henry Elwes).

His Royal Highness this afternoon visited Serr Baker, Bristol Road, Gloucester, and later visited Simon Jones and Company, Gloucester Trading Estate, Hucclecote, Gloucestershire.

Mr Nicolas Adamson was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent, President, this morning visited the Royal Northern College of Music, Oxford Road, Manchester, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Greater Manchester (Colonel John Timmins).

Her Royal Highness, Patron, this afternoon visited the Christie Hospital, Wilmslow Road, Wilmslow.

The Duchess of Kent later opened the new Distribution Centre, Seon Healthcare plc, Stables Industrial Estate, Loughborough, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Leicestershire (Sir Simon Townley).

Finally Her Royal Highness, Vice President of the British Red Cross Society, attended a Garden Party given by the Somerset Branch at Court House, East Quantoxhead, Dorset.

The Lady Nicholas Gordon Lennox was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

June 8: Princess Alexandra this afternoon visited Avon and Somerset and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Avon and Somerset (Sir John Wills, Bt).

Her Royal Highness, Patron of Action for Blind People, visited the Victoria Dock Village.

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The former conservatory at Highcliff Castle which reopens today as a visitor centre

Lottery pays out £2.6m to restore castle

By JOHN YOUNG

A £2,650,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the continued restoration of the romantic 19th-century Highcliff Castle, on the Dorset coast, was announced yesterday. The first stage of the restoration, a new visitor centre in the former conservatory, is to be opened by Lord Montagu of Beaulieu today.

The castle was built by Lord Stuart de Rothesay, grandson of the 3rd Earl of Bute, a Prime Minister under George III. In 1830, Lord Stuart commissioned William Pugin to construct the castle, using local Portland and Purbeck stone but incorporating large segments of medieval stonework and stained glass that he had acquired in France. The two central towers were aligned to provide a spectacular view across to the Needles, with two angled wings on either side.

In its heyday the castle was a centre of English social life, and among its

visitors were Edward VII, Kaiser Wilhelm II and William Gladstone. While staying at the castle in 1899 the then Prince of Wales was taken for a spin in a Daimler and promptly decided to order his first car.

After the Second World War the castle was sold, and until 1968 was occupied by a little-known order of monks, the Claretian Fathers. After a serious fire it was sold to developers who applied for consent to demolish it.

Consent was refused, but during the next nine years it was seriously vandalised, stripped of its interior fittings and reduced by a further fire in 1977 to little more than a shell. In 1977 it was purchased by Christopher G. Bourne, a Council which opened the grounds to the public to mark the Silver Jubilee.

Although the castle was described by English Heritage as one of the most significant Grade One listed buildings at risk and of outstanding national importance, it was not until last year that the

rescue operation finally got going. A charitable trust was set up to undertake the work with the aid of £1 million from the council and English Heritage.

Brian Rees, head of the project team, said yesterday that the award from lottery funds would secure the future of the castle and its continuing repair programme.

The project is by far the largest recipient of the second round of grants announced yesterday by Lord Rothchild, chairman of the Heritage Lottery Fund. The 18 grants total £5.1 million, and other recipients include the new Ronald Daudi Children's Gallery in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire (£254,500), and the Ironbridge Gorge Museum in Telford, Shropshire (£400,000).

Lord Rothchild said that about 400 applications for grants had so far been received, totalling some £200 million, which was about the amount the fund expected to have to distribute in its first year.

Birthdays today

Mr P.G. Beazley, MEP, 73; Mr Tony Britton, actor, 71; Viscount Craigavon, 51; Mr Edgar Evans, 50; Mr Michael J. Fox, actor, 54; Professor Charles G. Jeffrey, former director, University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies, 67; Mr C.J.M. Hardie, former chairman, National Provident Institution, 57; Sir Peter Healey, former chairman, Commonwealth Games Federation, 71; Mr Douglas Henderson, MP, 46; Mr Roy Hughes, MP, 70; Mr Derek Hunt, chairman, MFI Furniture Group, 56; Mr Roger Hurst, chairman and chief executive, Smiths Industries, 57; Mr Peter Kilgour, MP, 49; Sir Nicholas Lloyd, Editor, Daily Express, 53.

Mr Robert McNamara, former American Secretary of Defence, 79; Mr Michael Mann, 61; General Sir Geoffrey Munn, 85; Mrs June O'Neil, former deputy chairman, Equal Opportunities Commission, 66; Mr Charles Seach, partner, M & C Seach, 52; Mr Peter Sanders, former chief executive, Commission for Racial Equality, 57; Sir Douglas Smith, former chairman, Asda, 63; Mr Steve Smith, Editor, Daily Mirror, 60; Vice-Admiral Sir Patrick Symonds, 62; Colonel J.F. Williams-Wynne, former Lord Lieutenant of Cwynedd, 87; Mr Peter Wilson, chairman, Gallaher, 54.

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The Royal Society of Chemistry

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OBITUARIES

FORD STURROCK



F.G. Sturrock, Reader in Agricultural Economics and director of the Agricultural Economics Unit, Cambridge University, 1951-77, died on May 10 aged 84. He was born on July 30, 1910.

FORD STURROCK played a leading part in the development of research in the economics of agriculture at Cambridge. He wrote in a clear, crisp style, which gave his research findings wide appeal, while contriving to retain intellectual rigour and objectivity.

He published his first textbook, *Farm Accounting and Management* in 1947. In it he set out for the first time how efficiency yardsticks could be profitably employed in postwar farming in the United Kingdom. It became a standard work and ran to eight editions over 40 years. In successive new editions he finely chiselled into each new chapter or paragraph his latest thoughts and research findings.

Born in Glasgow, Ford Sturrock took a first-class degree in agricultural economics in 1936 at Glasgow University. He was immediately appointed to a research post in the department of agricultural economics in the West of Scotland College of Agriculture, where he taught and researched into the economics of hill sheep farming and land settlement schemes.

In 1939 he joined the Farm Economics Branch of the School of Agriculture at Cambridge. A year later in 1940 he was appointed to a permanent position as assistant economist. The Farm Economics Branch made a substantial contribution to the war effort in farming, and in this Sturrock played a key role. This continued once the war was won.

Under the Labour Minister of Agriculture, Tom Williams, the years 1945-51 were a time of unprecedented expansion for government advisory services into farming and food production. A new National Agricultural Advisory Service was established in 1946 and a year later the Provincial Agricultural Economics Service, with regional centres at nine universities in England and Wales, was set up. The Cambridge Farm Economics Branch was designated as the centre for the ten eastern counties of England, since it had done the pioneering research of the 1920s and was ready to play an expanded role in the drive to boost food production.

Sturrock took the lead in devising

and applying improved methods of economic analysis. It was clear that agricultural economists now had a different role to play from their wartime one. There was a demand for a new generation of agricultural economists who could think in economic rather than accounting terms. There was an even greater need to develop aspects of production economics, especially the theory of the farm firm.

Sturrock directed much of the work of the Farm Economics Branch (which later became the Agricultural Economics Unit) at Cambridge. In 1951 he was appointed as its director, a post he held until his retirement in 1977. By then he was also a University Reader in Agricultural Economics.

He and his colleagues brought greater precision to advisory methods. They developed a simple planning tool known as gross margin analysis, an approach traceable to the 18th century and beyond, to early classical econo-

mists. Gross margin analysis is now used worldwide.

This development offered the building blocks for a yet more powerful mathematical planning technique known as linear programming. Under Sturrock's direction the Cambridge Farm Economics Branch produced in 1954 some of the first examples of how this method could be used as a research and advisory tool in agricultural economics, using computers. This example of computer farm planning was later adopted widely.

Sturrock never lost his distinctive touch in communicating to non-specialist audiences the benefits of planning models. In doing so he may have aroused the indignation of his colleagues for excessive dilution of the academic rigour of research methodology. But his pen was more than a match for such criticism.

As long ago as 1956 when the Ministry of Agriculture sought to curb the indefinite expansion of milk, eggs

and pig meat, farmers' representatives warned of impending ruin. The Government was prepared to offer financial aid to modernise small farms. Sturrock set out to determine whether small farms could be viable, and went on to advise on the viable sizes of various types of smallholding.

In the mid-1950s he made the first of his many visits to Africa. He took up a short-term assignment in the Sudan to initiate research projects in agricultural economics for the newly-established Department of Agriculture. For the next 25 years he made countless visits to countries in East and West Africa, advising on land settlement schemes, irrigation projects and property rights. He also visited the Caribbean to advise on the modernisation of sugar plantations facing stiffer competition from producers in Australia and South America.

However, it was in West Africa, especially in Ghana, that he had an opportunity to try out his methods of planning on the typical smallholder's farm. He supervised a small number of research students, many of whom went back to Africa and elsewhere to help to modernise farming. His work on farming systems for developing countries continued into his happy years of retirement and he also went on short-term assignments to Asia.

Paradoxically, in his twilight years he began to recognise that the productivity gains in European Union farming were so great that the quantities of food being produced were increasingly confronted by a wall of inelastic demand reinforced by changing demographic and dietary trends.

At home he was concerned by the growing criticism of modern farming which he sought to address in his jointly written book entitled *Farm Mechanisation and the Countryside*. This was one of the first publications to discuss efficient farming in partnership with countryside conservation. Sturrock followed his leisure pursuits in the countryside in all weathers.

Ford Sturrock was a very private man, sometimes appearing solitary by nature. He was, however, never lonely; his research was his life. His retirement was blessed with a happy marriage and he took pride in caring for his manor house and gardens on the western fringes of Cambridge. He married Nancy Farmer late in life; she provided companionship for him in his advancing years and cared for him through his long illness. She survives him. There were no children.

SIMON BIRCH

Simon Birch, stockbroker and artist, died on May 28 aged 74. He was born on March 15, 1921.

SIMON BIRCH was a stockbroker for 30 years and a partner in the firm of Rowe Swann, but his passion was always art. He was both a painter and an architect by training, and an enthusiastic collector of paintings. He also had excellent contacts in the City and solid business experience. Hence it was that, after his retirement from stockbroking in 1983, he was approached by his friend Peter Chance, then chairman of Christie's, to set up a new branch of the auction house in the City.

Christie's in the City was launched from a small office, manned only by Birch, a colleague and a secretary, in Copthall Avenue behind

Regent's Park, where he had lived since boyhood. His father was Captain Wyndham Birch, who won the DSO in the First World War, and his mother, Lady Susan, was the daughter of the 9th Earl of Hardwicke. He was educated at Stowe where he excelled at art and shooting, and enrolled at the Westminster College of Art in 1938.

In October the following year he went up to Trinity College, Cambridge, to read Architecture. There he joined the officer cadet training unit and in May 1941 he was commissioned into the Coldstream Guards, serving in the 1st Battalion. He finished the war in charge of the officers' club in Brussels where his talent for tracking down the best food and wine available in the area endeared him to his fellow officers. In 1945 he married Bettine Cow-

ling, who had been his girlfriend since boyhood. His father was Captain Wyndham Birch, who won the DSO in the First World War, and his mother, Lady Susan, was the daughter of the 9th Earl of Hardwicke. He was educated at Stowe where he excelled at art and shooting, and enrolled at the Westminster College of Art in 1938.

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entry in St Margaret's, Westminster.

The following year he returned to civilian life and continued his architectural training at the Regent Street Polytechnic. To bolster his income, he sold paintings and

undertook architectural commissions in private houses, the most notable being a gazebo for Peter Chance's house in North Wales. However, with a young family now to support, his parents persuaded him to start a new career in the less unstable world of stockbroking. In the early 1950s he joined the firm of Rowe Swann, later to be merged with Sheppards & Chase. He was made a partner and retired in 1983, before the effects of the Big Bang rippled across the City.

His time with Christie's was perhaps the happiest period of his life, nor did it end with the closure of the City branch in the early 1990s. Birch continued to keep an office in King Street off St James's, from which he visited the local antique and art dealers, or dropped in at White's or Brooks's across the road.

Birch was an amateur in the true sense, approaching everything he did with the same enthusiasm, and his knowledge of fine art combined with his commercial sense made him welcome on many boards and committees. He was a senior trustee of the Holburn estate, a governor of Gresham's School, Holt, and a member of the court of the Fishmongers' Company. He was also a member of the executive of the City & Guilds of London Art School, from which he graduated, studied where he helped a number of students financially. In 1981 he was a High Sheriff of Greater London. He was the chairman of the Sheffield Association of Great Britain, in which capacity he sampled a good many oysters, cockles and welchs.

His wife died in 1990, and he is survived by two sons and a daughter.

EDOUARD DERMIT



Jean Cocteau, left, and Edouard Dermitt in *Le Testament d'Orphée*, 1959

Edouard Dermitt, film actor and painter, died on May 15 aged 70. He was born in Lorraine in 1925.

EDOUARD DERMIT figured in the public consciousness so much as an embodiment of one of Cocteau's private (or at least privatised) myths that it was always difficult to see him as a person in his own right, with his own gifts and his own very determined ideas. It was a power Cocteau exerted over many of his friends, associates and discoveries, moulding them willy-nilly into the shape of figures from his own personal world of the imagination.

With Dermitt it could be seen happening on a physical level before one's eyes. When he first appeared in a Cocteau film, as the young man of the incestuously close household in Jean-Pierre Melville's version of Cocteau's *Les Enfants Terribles* (1950), he was facially callow, unformed. By the time he appeared as Cégeste, Cocteau's guide through the nether regions in *Le Testament d'Orphée* (1959), his profile had crystallised into one of the Orpheus-heads from Cocteau's own graphic works.

With maturity he had become classically handsome in a way familiar in earlier Cocteau films and plays from the presence of Jean Marais. On the other hand, there was a sort of inner toughness about Dermitt that Marais never achieved. Possibly it went back to his childhood.

Born Antoine Dherrmitte, the son of a miner from Lorraine, he had in his teens already done heavy manual work in the mines and iron foundries of his native region, and when he first encountered Cocteau in 1947, it was as an applicant for the job of gardener in Cocteau's last home in Milly-la-Forêt. Cocteau, with his habit of making "poésie" out of everything, was immediately struck by the poetic potential of this young man, and proceeded to mould him.

In consequence, Dermitt ac-

quitted himself very well, despite being physically much too robust for the role, and went from a leading part in this film directly into a minor but important role in the next, *Orphée* (1949), which Cocteau wrote directly for the screen and directed himself.

In *Orphée* Marais plays the poet for rather, as always in Cocteau, the Poet who becomes obsessed with mysterious messages he receives by radio from another world. The role taken by Dermitt (his name shortened from Dherrmitte, as he had previously been billed) was that of a mysterious angelic presence, Cégeste, a younger poet who proves to be the source of the messages and an assistant of Orphée's Muse, who is also his personal death. At the end of the film, Cégeste is left in the zone beyond the mirror as the Princess (death) is led away to receive her punishment in some other unimaginable world.

But this was not to be the last film Cocteau would see of these characters. In Cocteau's final film, *Le Testament d'Orphée* (1959), Marais, Maria Casarès (the Princess) and Dermitt reappear. Dermitt as Cégeste reincarnated out of the sea, to lead the Poet (this time Cocteau himself) through his imaginary world, for which the amazing chalk caverns of Les Baux made a stark location. Dermitt plays a key role in the film, constantly called upon to argue with and rebuke Cocteau, very much as

an adopted son and fellow artist (both of which he had meanwhile become), might be expected to do.

Somewhere along the way Dermitt had married and had two sons. He had also shown signs of interest in painting, and his talents had been carefully nurtured by Cocteau — perhaps too carefully, since a lot of his work looked like a pastiche of his mentor's. This was, however, quite useful when, after Cocteau's death in 1963, Dermitt, his principal legatee and artistic executor, was called upon to complete various projects left unfinished by Cocteau, notably the frescoes for a chapel in Fréjus. He also, as Cocteau's literary executor, edited various writings, including a memoir, *Passé Définitif*, for posthumous publication.

In later years Dermitt lived quietly with his family, and continued to paint, which was what he wanted to do, rather than act, which he felt had always been too much a matter of obeying his master's voice. He was generally known as Doudou, a childhood nickname which had taken Cocteau's fancy, but always rather incongruous for the independent figure Dermitt was eventually to become. No doubt, without Cocteau he would never have been heard of, but placed where he was, he proved able to make his own distinctive and memorable contribution.

He is survived by his wife and two sons.

JOHN PRESPEER ECKERT

John Prespeer Eckert, co-inventor of the first electronic digital computer, died in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, on June 3 aged 76. He was born in Philadelphia on April 9, 1919.

THEY called it "Eniac," an acronym which stood for Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer. It weighed 30 tons, occupied a whole room, and resembled something from an early science fiction movie with its flashing pink lights, clicking switches and miles of cable. But it worked: just in time to confirm the design calculations for the world's first atomic bomb in 1945. Today's desktop computers, though a thousand times faster and a tiny fraction of the size, still use the same principle as the Eniac design.

John Prespeer Eckert and his collaborator, John Mauchly, who died in 1980, had begun work on their computer in 1942 in an effort to solve the problem of compiling ballistic tables for the US Army's artillery batteries. These tables, which involved intricate

calculations of wind, humidity, target elevation, distance and the weight of the shell, had been a bugbear of artillery officers for centuries. They had to be reformulated every time a small change was made to the guns or ammunition, and during the Second World War the Army became desperate to find some way to simplify the task.

Working at the University of Pennsylvania, Eckert and Mauchly designed a computer that contained more than 18,000 vacuum tubes, receiving instructions through hundreds of cables that resembled an old-fashioned telephone exchange. The data was fed in by means of stacks of punched cards, and the machine then converted the numbers to a series of Is and Os, sending the resultant stream of data through a series of switches called logical "and" and "or" elements. The result was a machine that could complete in 30 seconds a trajectory calculation which had previously taken a clerk 20 hours. Fortunately, though it was not designed for the purpose, it also proved to be the only

device capable of assisting the Manhattan Project. Eniac continued to operate until 1955, but Eckert and Mauchly had moved on at the end of the war to found their own computer firm, the Electronic Control Company, which developed the Sinac and Univac computers. The company was later sold to Remington Rand and eventually became the Univis Corporation, for which Eckert worked in a senior position until his retirement in 1969.

The holder of 87 patents, Eckert was involved in controversy in 1973 when a federal court held that one of the most crucial parts of the Eniac design was based on the pioneering work of Dr John Atanasoff, who had invented a computing device called ABC in the 1930s. Eckert vehemently denied the claim. "He never really got anything to work," he said later. "He had no programming system. Mauchly and I achieved a complete workable computer system. Others had not."

Prespeer Eckert is survived by his wife Judith, three sons and one daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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| TICKETS FOR SALE WIMBLEDON TICKETS DEBENTURES BOUGHT & SOLD ALL DAYS TEL: 0171 486 3683 TICKETS WIMBLEDON DEBENTURES NOVALETTES HENLEY REGATTA CHICKEN HOUSE TRIST | OFFICIAL WIMBLEDON DEBENTURE TICKETS AVAILABLE ON ALL DATES CREDIT CARDS ACCT 0171 486 9555 TICKETS WIMBLEDON DEBENTURES NOVALETTES HENLEY REGATTA CHICKEN HOUSE TRIST | ANNOUNCEMENTS PLEASE HELP US TO HELP THOSE FOR WHOM THE TRIUMPHS OF RESEARCH WILL COME TOO LATE AND WHO NEED OUR HELP NOW Your donation, large or small, is urgently needed and please remember us in your will. The British Kidney Patient Association London, N1 6JG, 01420 472021/2 Reg. Charity No. 272288 | ANNOUNCEMENTS THE RAF RISES TO THE CHALLENGE From 1919 the Fund has been helping RAF Members, their widows and children including many thousands of disabled during the last war, during training and now, today, wherever conflict arises. Last year over £275 million was raised to help over 10,000 cases. Please help with a donation of 10p or more to your will. Will you rise to the challenge, too? THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND Dept. 47, 47, PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON W1N 4AA | ANNOUNCEMENTS CONSECRATION OF DR. MANNING Yesterday Dr. Henry Edward Manning, once Archbishop of the diocese of Chichester, and a leader among the Tractarian movement, was formally consecrated at Moorfields Chapel as Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster. The solemn rite of the Roman church was observed in all its solemnities to do honour to this occasion. Abbots and Bishops, Heads of Religious Houses, and Ladies Superior of Convents assisted at the ceremony, which was as magnificent and impressive as only the Roman Church could make it. The installation ceremony which marked the introduction of Cardinal Wiseman to his diocese of Westminster. Nor was the occasion less great solemnity at Moorfields, when the church was decked and hung with black, and the only lights which shone were those round the bier of the Cardinal. Then the new titular Archbishop was only Dr. Man- |

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ON THIS DAY

June 9, 1865

Moorfields Chapel, known as the pro-cathedral, was later demolished, proceeds from the sale of the land going towards the building of Westminster Cathedral and of a new church, St Mary's, close to the old site. Manning had become a Catholic at the age of 42.

ning, and in the estimation of the great body of English Catholics had no more chance of the Archbishopship than of the triple crown. Yesterday witnessed the solemn installation as the second Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster. The high altar was adorned with the most massive plate, silver and silver-gilt. Between the six tall heavy candlesticks were vases of silver filled with flowers. The chalice, paten, and other vessels used at the

celebration of the Mass were all of solid gold, profusely enriched with brilliant, emeralds, rubies and pearls.

In the crown of one of the side arches which may be said to form the aisles of the church hung the scarlet hat of the late Cardinal. It may be said that these cumbersome badges of ecclesiastical office are never seen or shown in public, the only occasions on which they are used being when they are conferred by the Pope or when placed on the coffin after the death of the recipient. As being the Feast of the Pentecost, when the vestments used in the Church of Rome are crimson and gold and white, all the interior of the Church was draped in those colours. In the seats reserved for the Diplomats on the right of the altar all the Ambassadors and Ministers of the Catholic Powers were present, the French, the Italian, the Belgian, the Austrian, the Italian, and with them too was the Russian. Among the congregation also, but nearer to the altar, were grouped in picturesque confusion, members of almost all the religious orders now in England — Passionists, Capuchins, Benedictines, Augustinians, Franciscans, Brothers of St Vincent de Paul, Oratorians, Oblates, Redemptorists, Dominicans, Nuns, Sisters of Charity, and Sisters of Mercy.

INFOTECH 29, 30

Taking a gamble on training for the future

ARTS 31-33

Björk matches her Debut with a stunning follow-up

SPORT 34-40

Thrills and spills as cycling circus comes to town

TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
Pages 38, 39

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY JUNE 9 1995

Stunning cash offer seen as curtain-raiser to assault on BAe

GEC bids £835m for VSEL

By Ross TIEHAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE General Electric Company yesterday launched a knock-out £835 million takeover bid for VSEL, the Barrow warship builder. The cash offer, which tops an existing share-swap bid from British Aerospace by £175 million, was widely seen as the prelude to an assault on GEC on BAe itself.

Chris Avery, aerospace analyst at Paribas, said: "This is a stunning move from GEC. The future of the British defence industry is being fought over."

Almost 7.5 million shares in British Aerospace were traded as arbitrageurs took advantage of the falling price to build up their holdings. BAe shares closed down 14p at 527p, valuing BAe's 3.3 for one share-swap terms at £17.39.

VSEL shares, meanwhile, rose 30p to close at £21.40, just 10p below GEC's £21.50 a share bid. Analysts said GEC was bidding almost the maximum it could afford without diluting its earnings. Despite its ability to shelter VSEL profits from tax, they believe BAe cannot better the terms without dilution.

British Aerospace and its advisers were heavily taken aback by the remarkable shift in GEC's tactics, and alarmed at the possible implications.



Weinstock seized initiative

Last autumn, when BAe launched a surprise agreed offer for VSEL after breaking off secret talks with GEC about a joint bid, GEC looked like a reluctant bidder. Now, Lord Weinstock, GEC's 70-year-old managing director, has seized the initiative and left BAe trembling in his wake.

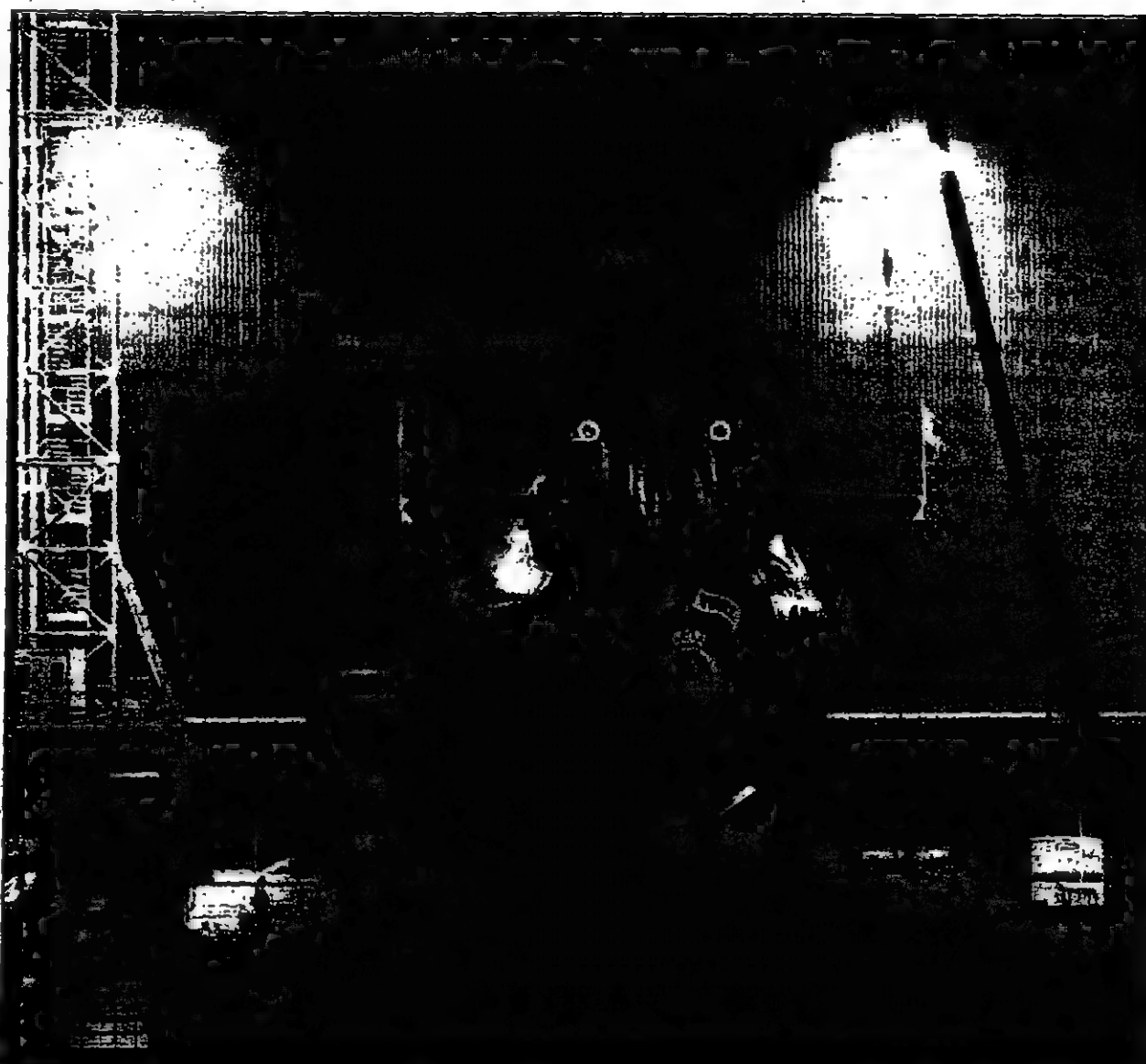
The immediate focus of rivalry between Britain's two biggest defence contractors is the warship business that builds Britain's nuclear-powered submarines and has the facilities needed to construct the new generation of assault ships and aircraft carriers that will be needed by the Royal Navy.

BAe, Britain's biggest defence group, is keen to win control so that it can extend its expertise as a prime contractor to the Ministry of Defence from warplanes and missiles into the realm of warships.

But GEC, whose GEC-Marconi subsidiary dominates the British defence electronics industry, is anxious to protect its own position as a warship builder and avoid being squeezed into the role of subcontractor.

Both GEC and BAe were cleared to reopen their bidding two weeks ago after a four-month inquiry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, agreed the MMC's majority view that a GEC takeover of VSEL would reduce competition, increase profitability and curb subcontracting. He backed a minority view that the MoD, as a monopoly customer, was well placed to get value for the taxpayer.

The MMC concluded that MoD orders alone might be insufficient to sustain both VSEL and Yarrow, GEC's frigate building yard on the Clyde. Both BAe and GEC hope to replicate the success of Britain's only other remaining



VSEL, builder of Britain's nuclear-powered warships, launched the Trident submarine Vanguard at Barrow in 1992

warship yard, Vospers Thornycroft, at Southampton, by building up export work to complement domestic contracts.

GEC has pledged to retain Yarrow as its frigate centre, while seeking economies through the merger of design and marketing with the Barrow operation. Announcing its offer, GEC said: "Together,

they would be better able than either company acting alone to sustain viable long-term businesses in naval systems and shipbuilding and to build and equip major warships for the MoD and export."

GEC has ample cash resources to fund its offer. At the end of September, net cash balances were £1.43 billion, with as much again tied up in

joint ventures. GEC shares ended the day just 2p lower at 322p. GEC already controls 14.97 per cent of VSEL, the maximum allowed by the warship company's articles of association.

VSEL will have to call a shareholder meeting to change the articles if any takeover is to be completed. That should not be a problem.

VSEL wants a larger partner to underwrite a £3.5 billion tender, due next year, to build five Trafalgar nuclear-powered submarines for the Royal Navy.

The company urged shareholders yesterday to take no action for the time being.

Pennington, page 23
Master strategist, page 25

Nynex pricing boosted by deal

By MARTIN WALLER

THE stock market pricing of Nynex CableComms, Britain's second-biggest cable TV and telephone operator, has been given a last-minute boost by the £679 million takeover of SBC CableComms, the fifth biggest, by the industry leader, TeleWest.

Shares in Nynex, which is being floated in London and New York by its owner, Nynex Corporation of the US, start dealing on a conditional basis this afternoon, and the price at which they are being sold to investors will be announced this morning.

Indications are that the float, which is raising between £400 and £450 million, will be a success and come in at just below 140p a share, towards the middle of the indicated range of 131p to 151p.

The TeleWest purchase of SBC initially came as a shock to the Nynex camp, creating as it does a much larger rival. But analysts came round to the view that the merger was broadly favourable to Nynex, encouraged by a rise in the TeleWest share price of 5p to 169p. The Nynex price is likely to be set by comparison with that of TeleWest.

The privately-owned SBC, whose joint owners are SBC Communications, a regional US telephone operator, and Cox Communications, a telecommunications business, is being bought by TeleWest in a deal that both parties accept could not have taken place before the latter's delayed stock market flotation in November.

Alan Michels, TeleWest's chief executive, said the British cable industry would see further consolidation in coming years.

SBC's owners will end up with 10 per cent apiece of the merged company's ordinary shares.

Pennington, page 23

BUSINESS TODAY

| STOCK MARKET | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|-----------|--|
| FT-SE 100 | 3390.8 | (+10.0) | |
| Yield | 4.10% | | |
| FT-SE All Share | 1281.8 | (+3.64) | |
| Nikkei | 15442.30 | (-237.32) | |
| New York | | | |
| Dow Jones | 4484.10 | (+2.07) | |
| S&P Composite | 232.38 | (-0.77) | |
| US BOND | | | |
| Federal Funds | 6.75% | (8.95) | |
| 10-year | 1.12% | (1.12) | |
| Yield | 6.57% | (6.59%) | |
| LONDON MONEY | | | |
| 3-month | 8.75% | (8.75%) | |
| 6-month | 10.75% | (10.75%) | |
| STERLING | | | |
| New York | 1.5825 | (1.5825) | |
| London | 1.5825 | (1.5825) | |
| DM | 1.5825 | (1.5825) | |
| FF | 1.5825 | (1.5825) | |
| Sfr | 1.5825 | (1.5825) | |
| Yen | 135.17 | (134.24) | |
| S index | 84.5 | (84.5) | |
| TOKYO | | | |
| London | 1.5150 | (1.5150) | |
| DM | 1.5150 | (1.5150) | |
| Sfr | 1.5150 | (1.5150) | |
| Yen | 84.50 | (84.50) | |
| S index | 84.5 | (84.5) | |
| NORTH SEA OIL | | | |
| Brent 15-day (Aug) | 817.00 | (817.00) | |
| GOLD | | | |
| London close | 898.35 | (898.15) | |
| * denotes midday trading price | | | |

Resignation

Northumbrian Water said that it was considering a package of benefits for shareholders and customers but admitted that it was almost resigned to its fate as victim of a takeover by Lyonnaise des Eaux. Page 22

Withdrawal

The Bank of England and Lloyd's Bank are pulling out of their investment in 3i, the venture capital group, in a public sale this month. Barclays and Midland are selling stakes amounting to 2.7 per cent and 2.6 per cent of 3i's share capital. Report 23, Tempus 24

BT chief's total pay drops to £599,000

By GEORGE SIVELA

BT yesterday disclosed a 9.3 per cent fall in total pay for Sir Iain Vallance, its chairman, last year from £663,000 to £599,000.

The company's annual report also disclosed £640,753 of paper profits on share options made by Sir Iain and that he held 180,844 BT shares at the March year-end, up from 17,084 at the end of the previous financial year.

He exercised options on 373,749 shares during the year at a time when the market price was 389p. He paid only 187p and 227p for his shares.

BT said that Sir Iain had transferred 15,749 of his option shares to his wife, which were then sold along with 194,300 of his own shares. The profit from the sale was used to finance the retention of 163,700 of the option shares, meaning that Sir Iain took no money out of his investment in the company as a result.

BT disclosed that basic salaries and fees for Sir Iain remained unchanged at £465,000 during the past year and at £415,000 for Michael Hopper, the group managing director.

Sir Iain last took a pay increase in July 1992, of 3.3 per cent. BT revealed that his basic pay would increase by 3.2 per cent to £480,000 a year effective from July 1.

Sir Iain's bonus for the financial year to the end of March fell from £185,000 to £115,000, although other benefits increased from £13,000 to £19,000.

Output and high street sales back Clarke stance

By JANET BUSH AND PHILIP BASSETT

KENNETH CLARKE's stand against higher interest rates increasingly appears to have paid off, with news yesterday of a fall in industrial production in April and weak activity on the high street.

Industrial production and manufacturing output both fell 0.2 per cent, confounding analysts who had been expecting a healthy bounce of about 0.5 per cent. Manufacturing in April stood only 2.3 per cent higher than a year ago and the Central Statistical Office judged that it is growing at a rate of only 1.5 per cent per year. In March, the year-on-year rate had been 3.9 per cent.

Statisticians said that industrial production, which includes the North Sea, is growing at a rate of only about 2 per cent, the weakest trend since autumn 1993. Year-on-year, industrial production was up 2.7 per cent but this compares unfavourably with 5 per cent in the year to March.

Production by consumer goods industries fell for the

first time in ten months, underlining the weakness of consumer demand.

The CBI reported that high street sales fell back last month. In its distributive trades survey, the CBI said retail sales rose only modestly with a balance — those recording a rise against those registering a fall — of 8 per cent reporting a sales increase.

This was less than was expected and marks a falling back from strong sales growth in April, when a quarter of retailers surveyed said sales volumes were increasing. But the CBI said that the underlying three-month figures still showed annual high street sales growth resuming last month.

Worryingly, however, the CBI also reported continuing pressure on inflation. The balance of retailers reporting higher prices rose from 23 per cent in February to 31 per cent last month, the highest level for two years. While the CBI said this was well below its

long-term average, retailers expect prices to rise at a slightly faster rate this month.

Sudhir Jumanek, CBI associate economic analysis director, said that the rise in shop prices reflected the knock-on effect of rising prices in manufacturing, and added that the weakness of the pound may be having an impact on manufacturers' cost base.

Don Smith, of HSBC Markets, said that yesterday's production figures were surprisingly weak. He said: "Overall, these figures further support the case for no hike in rates and they may serve to fuel speculation that UK growth could fall sharply this year."

The Chancellor met Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, on Wednesday to discuss rates and it is believed that the two men decided to leave them unchanged. There was no signal from the Bank of higher rates, either on the day of the meeting or yesterday.

Wakeham's Vosper job approved

LORD WAKEHAM, the former Energy Secretary, sought Cabinet Office permission to take up a directorship of Vosper Thornycroft, the shipbuilding and engineering group (George Sivila writes).

Vosper revealed yesterday that Lord Wakeham was to join its board after the Cabinet Office had given its approval and would become chairman from July 7.

He was attacked after joining the board of N M Rothschild, which advised the Government on coal privatisation around the time he was Energy Secretary. Lord Wakeham became leader of the House of Lords in April 1992 and joined Rothschild in January 1995.

Vosper said yesterday that Cabinet Office approval was sought "mindful of the Nolan recommendations and pending their implementation". The Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life recommended that a system similar to the civil service business appointment rules should apply to ministers.

City relishes Zeneca bid prospect

By MICHAEL CLARK
STOCK MARKET CORRESPONDENT

SHARES of Zeneca, the pharmaceutical group, soared 75p to £10.65 as the City looked forward to the prospect of the biggest takeover in British corporate history.

By the close of business last night, 7.35 million Zeneca shares had changed hands with more than £700 million added to the group's market value, raising it to £10.1 billion. Talk in the Square Mile suggested that a bid of about £12 a share may be on the way, valuing the company at £11.3 billion, almost £25 billion higher than the £9 billion Glaxo paid for Wellcome.

Trading in the shares reached fever

pitch at one stage with prices on screens becoming purely indicative as market-makers refused to make a firm quote. A hastily issued statement from the company said that it knew of no reason for the rise in the price, other than possible investor assessment of the strength of its new product portfolio.

This cut little ice in the City where speculators have been talking about the prospect of a bid from either one of the big European or US pharmaceutical companies. Roche, the Swiss pharmaceuticals group, is thought to have passed a slide rule over Zeneca already. Sanofi, the other Swiss group, or Pfizer and Bristol-Myers Squibb of the US are also thought of as potential bidders. The first

signs of speculation in Zeneca emerged during the tail-end of last week on the traded options market, where traders reported heavy call option business among the July £10.50 series, indicating that the shares were expected to move sharply better in the months ahead.

Yesterday NatWest Securities sold 1,000 put options, equivalent to a million shares, while Smith New Court was said to have bought call options and sold puts in the July series of options.

Brokers say that whatever the eventual outcome, a major retooling of Zeneca has taken place, which reflects favourably on Glaxo's decision to bid for Wellcome.

Stock market, page 24

Which environmental company has just announced a 7.2% increase in efficiency in its core business over the last year?

For the full picture, see Company Results

Northumbrian Water forced to hold fire on handouts

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

NORTHUMBRIAN Water yesterday said that it was considering a package of benefits for shareholders and customers but admitted that it was virtually resigned to its fate as victim of a takeover by the French company Lyonnaise des Eaux.

Announcing its results, Northumbrian was unable to deliver handouts as other water companies have recently because takeover plans by Lyonnaise are before the Monopolies Commission. The commission must report to the President of the Board of Trade by July 4 on the proposed cash offer, but Mike Taylor, group finance director, said: "The betting must be that they allow it."

Mr Taylor and David Cranston, chief executive, said Northumbrian, whose pre-tax profits rose 44 per cent to £90.4 million, was considering various ways to return benefits to both consumers and shareholders. Mr Taylor acknowledged that the political climate is such that there

is pressure on utilities to plough back a proportion of heavy profits to customers and shareholders. But Northumbrian's hands are tied until the outcome of the MMC enquiry and a decision by Michael Heseltine.

Customers and shareholders may have to wait until the autumn to see any benefits offered. After Mr Heseltine has made his decision, and if the proposed bid is complex, it will take some time to consider. Lyonnaise has 21 days in which to outline a formal bid.

Customer rebates and shareholder benefits would form part of Northumbrian's defence to the unwelcome bid by the French company, which owns North East Water, Northumbrian's neighbour. Northumbrian said it was considering several measures to reward customers and shareholders for its results to date and the out-performance it expected to achieve but Mr Cranston ruled out share buybacks. Dividend hikes, share issues, rebates and tariff reductions are being looked at, although the latter is unlikely as it would reduce permanently the charging base.

Yesterday the dividend was raised 16 per cent to take the total to 28.2p and Mr Cranston forecast that dividend increases should continue at rates of between 15 per cent and 17 per cent.

Northumbrian cut its operating costs by 7.2 per cent, which means it has reached the reduction of costs target set by the water regulator for the year 2000. Although it says no jobs were cut it forecast that there would be future job losses through natural wastage.

Turnover increased just 6.6 per cent to £318.2 million, while Northumbrian's diversified interests of environmental consultancy, environmental monitoring equipment and waste management proved less of a drain than some analysts had feared.



Mike Taylor, left, and David Cranston expect the French bid to win clearance

AIM rules amended to bring in fines

By PHILIP PANGLOSS

THE London Stock Exchange has amended the rules for the Alternative Investment Market, the new market for fledgling companies which starts on June 19, including the power to fine AIM companies.

An Exchange spokesman said the rules were still being discussed, but the imposition of a fine is viewed more "like a traffic offence, rather than anything major".

The Exchange said: "This [fine] will normally be used for minor offences and allow a more flexible regulatory response. It is appropriate for smaller companies who fail to meet the market rules despite the advice of their nominated adviser, and is less severe than other sanctions which may be imposed. It provides an intermediate measure before the imposition of sanctions, such as censure, suspension, or cancellation, and helps to reinforce the position of the nominated adviser."

Pantheon Corbett, a non-executive director of Singer & Friedlander, has been appointed chairman of AIM. He will chair the AIM Advisory Committee, which will advise and make recommendations to the AIM Management Board on AIM's operation and marketing, as well as reviewing its rules and trading arrangements.

An AIM appeals procedure has also been put in place, with an AIM Appeals Committee chaired by Geoffrey Lewis, formerly of Herbert Smith, the solicitors. The Stock Exchange has also added another seven firms to its list of approved advisers, bringing the total to 31.

AIM will effectively replace the current second-tier Unlisted Securities Market and Rule 42, the trading facility for rarely traded shares, effectively on a matched bargain basis.

Leeson charges win German approval

A FRANKFURT court has approved the remaining 11 charges of forgery and cheating in the Singapore Government's extradition request against Nick Leeson, the former Barings trader, Mr Leeson, who faces up to seven years in prison on each of the charges, is fighting the extradition request. He will appear before a local judge next week to be informed of the court decision and also to present his defence. A final court ruling on the legal validity of the Singapore request is expected in the next three to four weeks.

The new charges approved by the court relate to allegations that Leeson ordered the transfer of \$80 million from a Barings customer account to his own trading account; that he created a fictitious deal with the Wall Street firm Spear, Leeds and Kellogg in order to obtain funds from the internal customer account; that he illegally transferred funds within Barings and that he committed fraud against Simec, the Singapore futures exchange.

Bank closures forecast

HIGH STREET banks may be forced to close half their branches and axe 50,000 jobs if they are to survive the revolution about to hit the banking industry, according to a study by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu International. The cuts will come as banks compete to provide up-to-date and customer-friendly products according to *The Future of Retail Banking - A Global Industry Perspective* - published yesterday. John Harrison, who heads the firm's banking services group, said the revolution is likely to see the disappearance, probably through merger, of one or several leading banks in the UK and in the US.

Caird delivers warning

CAIRD, the waste group, has told shareholders that its operating profits for the first half of the year will be lower than in 1994. John Farrell, the recently appointed chairman, told the annual meeting that the specialist waste market remained competitive. He said the company had suffered extra costs in landfill because of wet weather at the start of the year. Caird is reducing operating costs and will continue with its disposal programme. It has sold two loss-making businesses since the year-end, but says that sales are difficult in the current market climate. Caird said it was well placed to take advantage of any trading improvement in the industry.

Inco buys £240m stake

INCO, the world's largest producer of nickel, has bought a quarter share in Diamond Fields, a Canadian mining group which owns the richest base-metal deposit discovered in North America for the past three decades. Development of the 1.6 billion lb nickel deposit at Voisey Bay, Labrador, is expected to produce 130 million lb of nickel a year, equivalent to between 7-10 per cent of current world production, at virtually no cost. Inco is paying £240 million for the shareholding, with the issue of US\$386 million 15-year preferred shares, plus a further cash payment of £825 million (£115 million) in exploration and appraisal costs.

SB in research link-up

SMITHKLINE BEECHAM has signed a collaboration agreement with the David Sarnoff Research Centre to develop and market a device for the synthesis and screening of molecules for drug discovery. Sernoff, a subsidiary of SRI International, will form a new company. SB said it would gain exclusive access in the human pharmaceuticals field to devices produced by the collaboration. The aim is to create a laboratory on a computer chip. Each chip will be designed to carry out thousands of chemical experiments simultaneously. The business card-sized chip will aim to link 10,000 microscopic test tubes connected by hair-thin channels.

Expansion at Oxford

OXFORD INSTRUMENTS, the specialist instrumentation group, is planning to build three new factories in the next two years after producing a 41 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £18 million in the year to March 26. Oxford increased sales 12 per cent to £25 million, and ended with an order book of £131 million. The group said its market had improved throughout the world and is paying a 4p dividend for the year on October 3, making 5.7p - an increase of 16 per cent. Two of the new factories will be ready by autumn 1996 and are more than double the size of the facilities they are replacing. Research and development spending rose 14 per cent to £8.8 million.

GEC Alsthom order

GEC Alsthom, the engineering joint venture between Lord Weinstock's GEC and Alsthom of France, has secured a £200 million order from the Huaneng International Power Development Corporation (HIPDC) to build a coal-fired power station in Sichuan province, in central China. The contract, which was signed in Peking yesterday by Pierre Bilger, the GEC Alsthom chairman, involves the construction of two new generating plants with a capacity of 360 megawatts each at Luohang, close to a plant of matching capacity built in 1989.

600 Group turns round

ANOTHER turnaround in the machine-tools industry has been provided by the 600 Group, which showed a sales increase of 21 per cent to £116.6 million. Orders rose 44 per cent, while pre-tax profits were £5.7 million compared with a loss of £2.5 million last year after a pension scheme credit of £3.2 million. The dividend was lifted 33 per cent to 2p for the year. The company said it was pleased with the sales growth achieved by new products, such as the Tornado CNC lathe, its electronic lathes ranges and Scriba lasers. The company is keen to increase its presence in developing markets.

£25m campaign on tax changes

By SARA MCCONNELL

THE Inland Revenue yesterday launched the first stage in a £25 million media campaign to explain radical changes to the tax system for the nine million people who have to fill in a tax return every year.

From April 1997, the Revenue is introducing a system of self-assessment. For the first time, taxpayers will have the option of working out their own tax liability. Alternatively, they can give the Revenue the figures and ask it to work it out. Either way, there will be strict deadlines for filing returns and paying tax. Anyone who fails to file their return on time will face an automatic penalty of £100, with a further £100 six months later if the return is still outstanding.

The system will also be simplified. From the 1996-97 tax year, there will be one return for all income and it will all be filed and paid at the same time. The self-employed will be taxed on profits made in the current tax year, not the previous one, as at present.

The first of a series of television advertisements went out yesterday. The initial phase of the campaign will cost £2.5 million but costs

could reach £25 million in the next three years. Sir Anthony Barmhall, the Revenue's chairman, said: "This is not a PR exercise; it is hard business reality."

But the Inland Revenue Staff Federation warned that self-assessment could be derailed by plans to cut staff and close more local offices. The Revenue plans to cut 12,000 staff by 2002, 3,000 of which will be lost as a result of self-assessment. Clive Brooke, the IRS's general secretary, called for cuts to be postponed to cover help to taxpayers.



Brooke: staff cuts warning

Meconic priced at £44m

By PHILIP PANGLOSS

SHARES in Meconic, which makes opiates and other controlled drugs, have been priced at 135p, capitalising the group at £44.4 million when it floats this month.

Meconic was formed after a £17.4 million management buyout of Macfarlan Smith from Glaxo in 1990. The group will raise £18.7 million through a placing with £10 million of new money for the company and the balance for existing shareholders.

Proceeds will be used to pay off debts of about £9.4 million and to allow expansion. The placing is fully underwritten by Baring Brothers.

Meconic made pre-tax profits of £4.18 million in the year to April 28, on turnover of £29.6 million, with opiates accounting for about 75 per cent of the group's business.

Trading in the shares is due to begin on June 16.

City Diary, page 25

Troughton goes from WH Smith

By SARAH RAGNALL

WH SMITH has parted company with Peter Troughton, managing director of UK retailing, less than a month after his shares tumbled 16 per cent as a result of a profits warning.

Mr Troughton, 46, was paid £180,000 in 1994 and is on a two-year rolling contract. Sir Malcolm Field, chief executive, said: "We are negotiating compensation at present. We are close to finalising details."

Sir Malcolm said Mr Troughton's departure was by mutual agreement and followed a review of board responsibilities. He denied the move was linked to the profits warning.

Mr Troughton, said to be a leading contender to succeed Sir Malcolm, joined the board in 1991 becoming managing director of UK retailing in 1993. He was responsible for the core WH Smith chain, Waterstone's and Our Price/Virgin Retail.



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DAVID DAVIES, CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

| | 1995 | 1994 | change |
|---------------------|---------|---------|--------|
| Net revenues* | £411.3m | £372.3m | +10% |
| Operating profit | £100.4m | £81.6m | +23% |
| Profit before tax* | £96.1m | £77.0m | +25% |
| Earnings per share* | 33.7p | 27.4p | +23% |
| Dividend for year | 13.5p | 11.4p | +18% |

*From continuing operations
*Before exceptional items

Johnson Matthey

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For a copy of the Annual Report, to be published on 19th June 1995, please contact:
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□ This time, GEC is really serious □ The spectre at Nynex's party □ Treasury on the spot

Weinstock starts a revolution

□ LORD Weinstock retains a devastating knack of taking his rivals by surprise and putting the fear of God into them. At an age when others are pruning roses and settling for dotage, his Lordship has clearly decided to complete his life's work and sort out the British defence industry.

Government resistance to the idea of a single, monolithic main contractor to the Ministry of Defence obstructed that aim throughout the 1980s. But a decade of competitive procurement policies, combined with post-Cold War economies, has already bankrupted much of the domestic competition.

Even so, GEC was clearly unsure just how much licence it would be granted by the Government last autumn. Its first tentative approach for VSEL was made indirectly, in discussions about a joint bid with British Aerospace. When BAE slammed the door and bid alone, GEC's counterbid was half-hearted.

Michael Heseltine has changed all that. When he cleared GEC to rebid, against the advice of competition authorities, he sent a clear message to GEC's managing director. The Government is now prepared to allow the creation of dominant prime contractors.

GEC has responded with a block-buster bid for VSEL which BAE will be hard put to match.

Bidding £835 million, or 20 times VSEL's earnings, Lord Weinstock is sacrificing some £60 million a year of interest for VSEL's £60 million a year of profits. Despite its ability to shelter VSEL profits beneath its own tax losses, BAE apparently cannot top that without dilution.

Lord Weinstock, as ever, is looking ahead. By combining Yarrow and Barrow, he would be assured of the £35 billion contract to build the next five Trafalgar submarines, and would be front runner for an order for two assault ships, expected later this year.

He will also contain the expansion of BAE and improve the leverage to achieve his ultimate ambition. That goal is unchanged: a merger of GEC's defence businesses with those of BAE to give the UK a strong national champion able to make deals with partners in Europe and the United States.

A new sense of urgency can be detected. Lord Weinstock seems in fine fettle, but next month he will be 71 years old. His son Simon is now ensconced on the GEC board, but only Lord

Weinstock has the experience, the gravitas and the connections to cement the strategy.

Despite the admirable tidying-up achieved by Richard Laphorne, BAE's finance director, GEC remains completely disinterested in the rest of BAE's activities, including its civil aircraft side. Yet BAE would argue that these are an essential complement to its defence activities.

Weinstock does not regard his bid for VSEL as hostile to BAE. Ultimately, he believes, they may all be one. BAE must judge where its advantage best lies. One outcome is already clear: war is more costly than jaw jaw.

Two into one goes for cable firms

□ TELEWEST cannot truly be accused of a deliberate attempt to spoil the timing of the Nynex pricing in New York, if only because the SBCC deal has been hatching since at least this time last year. But there were clearly some long faces in the Nynex camp while the markets in London and New York at-



tempted to come to grips with the implications of the deal.

The arguments cannot be regarded as being in direct competition, since each are granted their own patches of turf to operate on. But there is one sense in which competition can only become more intense. The assumption is that in a few years' time the number of operators, down from about 50 a decade ago to just 16, will fall further to perhaps four or five. This would not cause the Government or the competition authorities any grief, since their main competitor is the still-monolithic BT.

The expansion route for those four or five is swallowing up their smaller and less profitable

brethren, by merger — a course now charted by TeleWest and SBCC — or by incursion into virgin territory, those 7 million households across the country that have not yet been designated as part of a franchise. Apart from straight mergers such as TeleWest/SBCC, which has not required any money to change hands, any such expansion is by definition expensive. A larger entity, therefore, by raising its profitability through the available cost savings driving such mergers, must be better able to compete with a smaller one.

In Nynex's favour is the fact that a healthier TeleWest must raise the perceived value of the sector as a whole and be reflected in the former's own value, although it does put pressure on the company to come up with a partner of its own.

The mathematics of cable remain the same — companies need to sell to as many as one household in two in the areas they have cabled by the end of the century to achieve pay-back, while they face competition from existing satellite channels and forthcoming digital broadcast-

ing. The necessary marketing clout to achieve such penetration can only be wielded by a substantial player.

A scandal back in the spotlight

□ THE Treasury might have hoped that the row over its handling of the secondary power sale would fade away. The rise in share prices generally has lifted National Power and PowerGen above their government sale prices, even if they have not recovered relative to other shares. The generators, which had used the sale to buy back stock, were not likely to let the fuss die quickly. The Stock Exchange has ensured it will return to the political agenda.

The Exchange has investigated and is unhappy with what it has found. But it lacks the power to delve further. It would normally pass the papers to a regulator with powers under the Financial Services Act or, on insider trading, to the DTI. But the Treasury is immune under the FSA. By implication, so are

its advisers, including BZW, who have come in for private stick in the City. Ironically, the Exchange's only option is to hand its confidential findings to the body responsible for City regulation — the Treasury.

The issue is whether Whitehall created a false market to the benefit of itself, and to the potential benefit of anyone else in the know, by withholding the information that the electricity regulator was likely to re-open his price review. Any claim that this was not price-sensitive is plainly false.

The Treasury says it is already examining the matter. But any inquiry must be independent of all interested parties. It should not suppose that it is acceptable for government to behave in ways that would be criminal in the private sector.

Greenspan gaffe

□ THE markets have got themselves into a lather about an impending US recession. We are told that Fed chairman Alan Greenspan meant on Wednesday to emphasise how short any recession would be, if only to pacify Hans Tietmeyer who was sitting next to him at the offending moment. When Mr Greenspan originally mentioned the R word, the dollar fell and Herr Tietmeyer was not amused.

Banks cut investment stakes as 3i expands

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England and Lloyds Bank are pulling out of their investment in 3i, the venture capital group, in a public sale this month. Barclays and Midland are selling stakes amounting to 2.7 per cent and 2.6 per cent of 3i's share capital, taking their holdings down to 5.5 per cent and 5.3 per cent respectively.

A total of 20.9 per cent of shares will be sold, worth £494 million at yesterday's 367p share price. Lloyds, with 9.9 per cent, will gain £95.6 million, and the Bank of England, which is selling 6.6 per cent, will enjoy a £143 million gain.

Bank of Scotland is keeping its 2.5 per cent stake and NatWest remains as the firm's single biggest shareholder with 17.8 per cent.

This is the second time in 12 months that the banks have sold shares in 3i — the first was at the time of 3i's flotation last July. NatWest's decision not to sell has raised questions about its intentions. NatWest has a large venture capital business of its own. However, it is thought unlikely to be contemplating a bid for 3i. Philip Middleton, analyst at Smith New Court, said it would be paying a high price if it did so. He said: "If NatWest had wanted 3i it should have bought it at the time of the share sale." The bank is thought to hope to gain corporate finance business from 3i where its investments are

realised through stock market flotations.

3i yesterday unveiled its results for the year to March 31. Its net asset value was 10.5 per cent higher at 346p per share. Despite the strong results, the figures were below City expectations and its shares fell 5p yesterday to close at 367p.

The total dividend for the year has been increased by 10 per cent to 7.2p with the final payment of 4.4p due on July 26. Total return, that is dividend revenue less costs and net interest, was £239 million, a 12.9 per cent return on shareholders' funds.

3i invested £454 million in 532 unquoted companies in the UK last year, up from £315 million in 536 firms. It increased its UK market share from 17 per cent to 25 per cent of all funds invested by the British Venture Capital Association. In Europe it invested £88 million in 50 businesses.

3i has taken advantage of the low margins available on corporate loans to refinance its credit facilities. Brian Larcombe, the finance director, said margins available are "at the bottom end of where they have been for a long time." It has £1 billion long-term credit facilities in place.

Last year 23 companies from the portfolio achieved a stock market listing and there were 70 trade sales.

Tempos, page 24

GM cancels Matthey contract

By COLIN CAMPBELL

JOHNSON MATTHEY said yesterday that its contract for supplying autocatalysts to General Motors, the US car group, has not been renewed. David Davies, chairman, said in announcing sharply higher 1995 profits and dividend, that GM's non-renewal of the contract at the end of last December was not unexpected. The two companies were in dispute last year over platinum group metals. Mr Davies said yesterday that the matter was proceeding to court.

The loss of GM's business represented no more than 10 per cent of JM's autocatalyst production and the company still led the world market in autocatalysts, with a 35 per cent share, Mr Davies said.

The stock market, however, registered disappointment. JM shares fell 19p to 569p. During the year ended March 31, JM also became the largest pre-gold refiner in the world. Pre-gold profit for the year was £95.4 million (£65.3 million) on a turnover of £2.18 billion (£1.95 billion). The year's total distribution rises 18 per cent to 13.5p a share.

Tempos, page 24

Chubb aims to expand in Far East

CHUBB SECURITY yesterday declared that its drive to increase market share was on course as it pushed up pre-tax profits 15.6 per cent to £89.1 million (Christine Buckley writes).

The company, which was spun off from Racal, the electronics group, two-and-a-half years ago, is midway through a four-year programme to boost its share of a £9 billion market from 9.5 per cent to 11.5 per cent.

Chubb, which is now sitting on a cash pile of £69 million, notched up margins to 12 per cent, from 11.2 per cent. Sales grew 5.2 per cent to £720.3 million. Since Chubb initiated its drive to boost market share, it has launched 35 product ranges, recruited 140 new sales staff and pumped £16 million of extra capital investment into strategic sites.

David Peacock, the chief executive, said that the company was looking to expand worldwide, especially in Far Eastern markets.

Chubb increased its dividend 17 per cent with a final 5p, making a total of 7.32p. Shareholders will get the option of taking shares instead of cash. The dividend is payable on August 24.

Tempos, page 24

Northumbrian Water: 1995 results show a year of productive progress.

Northumbrian Water Group registered a strong performance in the year to 31 March 1995, with all key operating companies making significant progress towards the Group's objective of becoming a leading integrated environmental company.

Group turnover rose 6.6% to £318.2million, and profit before tax rose 43.9% to £90.4million, reflecting the fact that Northumbrian Water Limited made significant efficiency gains — some of which have already been shared with our customers, shareholders, employees and the region — and that the Environmental Services businesses have begun to generate operating profit — a trend which we confidently expect to continue.

NWL's drinking water achieved a compliance rate of 99.8%, improving on the standard which has put NWL at the top of the league table in England and Wales, and further progress was achieved in both sewerage services and bathing water quality. Operating costs were cut by 7.2%, leading to a step change in efficiency.

Environmental Services posted an operating profit of £0.5 million for the second half. Major contracts have been won by the waste management business, and the acquisition of Buhler



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SALIENT FIGURES

| | 1995 | 1994 | |
|---------------------|---------|---------|--------|
| Turnover | £318.2m | £298.6m | +6.6% |
| Operating Profit | £107.3m | £77.6m | +38.3% |
| Profit Before Tax | £90.4m | £62.8m | +43.9% |
| Dividends Per Share | 28.2p | 24.3p | +16.0% |

gives the Group a leading position in waste water sampling equipment. Entec, the environmental consultancy business, broke even in the last three quarters.

The Board remains committed to enhancing shareholder value and believes strongly that shareholders should benefit directly from the Group's high level of performance. We have already announced our intention to reduce dividend cover to 2.5 times within the next few years. We are exploring methods, within the general context emerging within the industry, of delivering further benefits to shareholders and customers for the results achieved to date and for the out-performance which we are confident of achieving in the future.

The strength of the year's performance serves to reinforce the Board's confidence in Northumbrian's strong prospects as an independent, integrated environmental business.

Master strategist focused on defence

Ross Tieman
reports on the
irrepressible rise
of a British
business legend

David Newlands, finance director of the General Electric Company, was trying to clarify the level of the company's capital investment. "That's not right," said Lord Weinstock, the company's managing director. "We spent money on acquisitions. That's investment too." It was an illuminating vignette.

This view, although at odds with that of the accounting standards authority, is crucial to any understanding of Britain's electrical and electronics colossus and the man who runs it. For 30 years critics have been complaining that GEC buys businesses, but does not build them. And for the same 30 years, Lord Weinstock has ignored his detractors, extending his tentacles to embrace rival companies, one by one, and weld them into a single, dominant, British electronics and electrical engineering business.

Today, GEC has a market capitalisation of £8.9 billion, and annual sales of £9.7 billion. It is the biggest manufacturing company in Britain. The creator of this empire is a graduate of the London School of Economics and one-time estate agent Arnold Weinstock.

In 1949, he married Netta Sobell. Her father, Sir Michael Sobell, took his young son-in-law into the family firm, Radio & Allied Industries, which at the time was riding to prosperity on the back of Britain's new-found love affair with the television. Radio and Allied was acquired in 1961 by the General Electric Company, the weakest and smallest of the three great British electrical companies. Weinstock was brought into the boardroom. As managing director, he turned GEC into the most profitable of the three, and then with the aid and approval of the Labour Government's Industrial Reorganisation Corporation, he merged his chief rivals into one world-class corporation.

Weinstock's first move, in 1967, was a hostile bid for the underperforming Associated Electrical Industries. A year later, he completed an agreed merger with English Electric, the most technically advanced of the three, which brought with it Marconi's pioneering defence and civil electronics businesses. These deals put Weinstock at the



Power game: by the 1970s Lord Weinstock, then Sir Arnold, was running a business that ranged from light bulbs to Lightning fighters

head of a business whose activities ranged from power equipment, through light bulbs, to interests in the Canberra bomber, Lightning fighter and ultimately Concorde.

To Weinstock's regret, both the military and civil aircraft businesses were nationalised in the mid-1970s, along with Hawker Siddeley Aviation and Hawker Siddeley Dynamics to create a company that has haunted him ever since: British Aerospace.

By way of compensation, he turned his attention to the United States, snapping up a string of American companies: White Industrial Power, AS Dick, Cincinnati Electronics, Picker International and Gilbarco.

Weinstock ran his company using methods that have since become the model for management textbooks: delegation of responsibility to managers of subsidiaries, strict financial controls, concise monthly reporting. By the mid-1980s, the search for

scale economies in high-tech products created pressures for a new wave of mergers.

GEC pounced on Plessey, its United Kingdom arch-rival in telecommunications equipment and defence electronics. The move was vetoed by the Government after a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry. But two years later, GEC was back, in partnership with Siemens of Germany, with a bid worth £2 billion.

Weinstock had already snapped up Yarrow Shipbuilders, the most technically advanced of the UK warship yards, as the Government demilitarised British Shipbuilders. Now Weinstock's new strategy was becoming clear. His target was no less than the domination of the UK defence industry.

But he also had to secure the future of his other British and American businesses in a world where new competitors from the Far East were forcing Western com-

panies into global alliances. This he did with a string of extraordinary deals that showed his mastery of strategic thinking.

GPT, the telephone switchmaker, had already become a joint venture with Siemens. Now GEC's rail equipment, power engineering and electrical manufacturing businesses were combined with those of Alcatel, its French rival, in GEC-Alsthom, a 50/50 joint venture.

The white goods business, best known for its Hotpoint brand, was inserted into a joint venture with the white goods operations of GEC's American rival General Electric.

Space systems — the satellites manufacturing business, was tied into a similar arrangement with Lagardere of France to create Matra-Marconi Space, subsequently mopping up the space systems business of British Aerospace. With two of its three core activities, power

engineering and telecoms equipment, securely merged with equally resourceful foreign partners, Weinstock was free to turn his attention to the defence industry in Britain.

Because of security worries, this was — and still is — the last main industry of international scale to be organised on national lines. But by the late-1980s, Weinstock, with three decades of experience could already detect the portents of the deepening internationalisation to come.

When the collapse of the Berlin Wall unleashed a wave of defence spending cuts, he was ready. At bargain basement prices, Weinstock picked the best assets out of his collapsing rivals, starting with Ferranti, the aircraft radar specialist. So parsimonious was he that he even withdrew a rescue bid at the last moment, mopping up the final fragments from the receiver.

These he has now started to weave into a European web. In essence,

Weinstock's technique is simplicity itself. Once Weinstock has established dominance of a particular defence technology, and hence control of that aspect of the British defence market, he seeks out a foreign partner from a position of strength.

Doing deals with American defence companies is extremely difficult, because their domestic market is so much larger. Instead, Weinstock has concentrated his attention on French rivals, who share his problems of inadequate scale, have a similar sized domestic market and a comparable urge to develop export sales.

Thus he has already acquired, from Ferranti, a joint venture in sonar systems with Thomson-CSF. He has also set up GEC-Thomson Airborne Radar, an undertaking that will develop a radar capable of being fitted to both the Eurofighter, the British-French-Italian-Spanish co-production, and the French Rafale when they are ready for a mid-life update in 15 or 20 years time. That is a measure of Weinstock's strategic thinking.

GEC is now a formidable business. Thanks to Weinstock's vision, it is well placed to profit from a worldwide surge in infrastructure investment. Spending on telephone systems, railways and power generation and distribution is surging both in the developed economies and in the industrialising economies of Asia. Activities that stagnated during the 1980s are beginning to enjoy a growth phase.

Critics have attacked GEC's record in the management of defence projects. But as Tim Eggar, the industry minister, pointed out this week, state of the art techniques are by their very nature difficult to bring to fruition. "We should not be afraid to fall from time to time," he said.

Where GEC has full control of the systems it is developing, its record is certainly no worse than its rivals. Were that not the case, GEC-Marconi would have been dropped as a contractor by the United States Department of Defense years ago.

In reality, however, GEC is the main supplier of head-up displays for many of America's leading combat aircraft, including its next super-fighter, the F22. The company has also developed the main flight computers and controls for the country's first fly-by-wire airliner, the Boeing 777.

Investment by acquisition has served GEC well over the decades. It will do so again. On that at least, yesterday's massive bid for VSEL shows, Lord Weinstock, and Mr Newlands, are in agreement.

THE
TIMES
CITY
DIARY

Poppy Day in silk

DR Marshall Smalley, managing director of Meconic, the specialty chemicals group, now knows what it's like to be desperate for a quick fix. Yesterday, Impact Day, he would have given his back teeth to hold a red poppy. Meconic's stock market debut is on June 16, so what better photographic pose for publicity than with a bunch of poppies? After all, opiates — the backbone of his group — are derived from the poppy. But, Mr Poppy Man's passion had to be restrained. Red poppies are not available in England until late July/August, and the faded exhibits from the Chelsea Flower Show were no good, as they were all of the orange/yellow Iceland variety. So he had to make do with a host of artificial red silk poppies with white leaves instead.

Paternity wheeze

TO PROVE banks can be caring, considerate and thoughtful, I have to report that a regional branch of NatWest, somewhere south of London, recently granted a member of staff three-days paternity leave because her horse was in foal. Dam and offspring are doing well.



Tea and toast

IF Lord Weinstock and GEC win their takeover battle for VSEL, his hard working troops will have to toast their success in lemonade, drunk out of tea cups. Alcohol misuse at work costs British industry £2 billion a year, employment minister Philip Oppenheim said yesterday, adding that drinking causes inefficiency and lost production. The Minister was presenting the third annual Alcohol Concern's Company of the Year Award to — The General Electric Company.

MORE Golf Croquet names (City Diary, Tuesday). The Hoopy Henries, Hooping Toffs, The Cock-a-Hoopers, Wicked Wickies, Woody Woodpeckers, Lemphamers, Mallet East, Croga-a-Hoop, Croq Au Vin, Wicked Wickies.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Winning entry in the NatWest/Times Business Ethics Essay competition

No time to be economical with ethics

For at least another hundred years we must pretend to ourselves that fair is foul and foul is fair. For foul is useful and fair is not. Avarice and usury and precaution must be our gods for a little longer still. For only they can lead us out of the tunnel of economic necessity into daylight. Such were the words of Lord Keynes, written in the great depression of 1930. But in this, he was wrong.

Avarice and usury are not the road to universal economic prosperity. For who will benefit from the "daylight" if the rich have learnt not to share their wealth with the poor? Such a road leads not to "daylight", but to division, discontent and instability.

His fundamental mistake was to assume that ethical behaviour cannot be competitive. In contrast with this assumption that "foul is useful and fair is not", the business world is becoming increasingly concerned with ethics. Ethical business practice is now seen as profitable in the long term and sustained growth is preferred to short-term booms. Therefore, more and more businessmen are asking: "What does 'ethical' actually mean?" The definition is as simple as it is complicated. Ethics are a moral code of what is right and wrong. For a business, "being ethical" entails not only drawing up such a code, but also putting it into practice.

The difficulty comes in trying to decide what is right and what is wrong. No two people have precisely the same opinions. Therefore, critics say, ethics cannot have anything to do with business.

The nitty-gritty of deciding what is right and wrong in a particular situation is a matter for human vision, wisdom and judgement, based on these principles. Such a task cannot be relegated to a computer or solved by mathematical calculation. Many businesses have already taken the first step by drawing up an ethical code of conduct.

There are two areas to consider. First, is it ever in the financial interests of a business to behave ethically? Secondly, can a competitive business be ethical even when financial and ethical principles diverge?



Merlin Willcox, who won the NatWest/Times Business Ethics Essay competition, receives his £3,000 prize from Derek Wanless, right, chief executive of NatWest. Also pictured are Brandon Wilson, left, who came second and received £2,000, and Lindsay Cook, business editor of The Times. Duncan Slater was third and received £1,000

Keynes implied that ethics are always at conflict with profits. But good ethics often increase profits.

Conservation of energy and resources saves money. British Telecom has committed itself to a 15 per cent reduction in energy expenditure by 1997; it is also aiming to save more than one million cubic metres of water per year. Sainsbury has reduced its product packaging by 1,600 tonnes, producing savings of £2.7 million in the year 1993-94.

Good safety standards and employment policies improve productivity. RTZ, the mining giant, prides itself on a lost-time injury rate one third of that in all US mines. B&Q has started to recruit a greater proportion of older people, for whom re-employment prospects are dim. It found that a store trying to employ group people in this age group became one of the most profitable in the chain.

Consumers and investors favour businesses with higher ethical standards. They prefer to buy from companies with a good reputation for customer care and honouring guarantees. There is also increasing

concern with the ethics of the production process. Most people prefer products that are less harmful to animals and the environment and made by companies that support the community. Many are even prepared to pay more for fairly traded goods.

The second area is more challenging. When there is conflict between ethics and profits, often it is the money that wins the day. Yet this need not always be so, as the following case shows. High wages for employees undoubtedly decrease profits, so companies are tempted to set up factories in developing countries where labour is much cheaper. Many take advantage of conditions for workers no better than in the sweatshops of Victorian England, but there are significant exceptions.

After condemning a long list of businesses that exploit Indonesian workers, an article recently published by Amnesty International praised Levi Strauss and Gillette for imposing "strict compliance with their own human rights standards", paying "far above

the minimum wage", and offering "good benefits".

Of course, it is possible for a business to behave ethically even when this does not maximise its profits. However, it could be argued that this is a luxury for large companies with comfortable profit margins. Even then, ethical behaviour may put them at a disadvantage. For example, if a mining company spends too much time negotiating land claims with the local people, a competitor may surreptitiously conclude a deal with the national Government. If a defect is found more often than expected in a new model of car, the company which recalls, checks and repairs cars to protect its customers' safety may lose out (at least in the short term) to a competitor who forgoes this expense.

These are examples of the most difficult ethical dilemmas facing businesses today. There will always be predators in the jungle, and self-regulation is notoriously ineffective. Can you expect a lion to regulate the numbers of wildebeest it kills, only to benefit the hyenas? In order to protect businesses that behave

ethically when it is not to their financial advantage, the law must intervene to prevent competitors from exploiting the situation.

Legislation must ensure that higher costs are incurred by those who do not behave ethically. Some such legislation is already effective, a striking example being the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Poor environmental management resulted in the company having to pay out well over \$2 billion. Future changes in the law could also penalise unethical practices. This could be done by introducing more comprehensive taxes on pollution and mandatory reports on ethical progress.

However, laws do not stop at punishing bad behaviour.

Through subsidies, governments support certain enterprises; there is much scope for moving this support towards more ethical businesses. For example, instead of subsidising intensive over-production or fallow fields, governments could subsidise organic agriculture. This would decrease the use of artificial pesticides and fertilisers, create more farming jobs, and make organic food affordable for all.

Such changes in the law will only come about if there is sufficient pressure on the Government from all stakeholders in businesses: customers, staff, shareholders, suppliers and the wider community. Businesses can play a leading role by setting themselves higher ethical standards, and pressing for legislation to protect companies that observe these standards.

In conclusion, a competitive business certainly can be ethical. Ethical behaviour often increases competitiveness by saving money, improving productivity, and pleasing consumers. Where ethical behaviour is costly, the law can protect ethical businesses from predatory competitors. Contrary to the words of Keynes, fair is useful and foul is not. Avarice and usury must no longer be our gods. They cannot lead us into daylight.

MERLIN WILLCOX

Merlin Willcox is reading medical sciences at Emmanuel College, Cambridge

BUSINESS LETTER

Willingness to pay a minimum wage should concern minister

From Denis MacShane, MP for Rotherham. Sir, Philip Oppenheim, the Junior Employment Minister, should be concerned rather than content with the survey showing many — if not all — employers are willing to pay a minimum wage. He really is fighting a losing battle. Any half-decent employer knows that fair wages are essential to a healthy business.

The more than one million workers earning less than £2.50 an hour are a threat to all other employers who seek fair wages but are undercut by unscrupulous firms whose low-pay policies are encouraged by government policy. Responsible companies and taxpayers are also fed up with the subsidies they have to provide via the benefits system to companies paying poverty wages.

Mr Oppenheim returns to his old chestnut about higher levels of unemployment in France where there is minimum wage. He does not cite the many countries with minimum wages or central wage-fixing systems which have lower unemployment and better job creation records than the UK. Many of these countries, in addition, enjoy lower unit costs which, unlike his

rather primitive devotion to productivity rates, are a better indicator of exportability and economic performance.

Even in France, in the 1980s, employment records were better than the UK. The British devaluation in 1992 and the French franc remaining very high are more likely the reason to explain the mid-1990s relative levels of unemployment between our two countries.

However, it is interesting to note that President Chirac has raised the SMIC, the French minimum wage, and ordered his Prime Minister, M. Juppé, to attack unemployment and social exclusion by all methods. A new right-wing administration defends, indeed improves, the floor level for living standards, and makes tackling unemployment its top priority. What a contrast with the Panglossian complacency exuding from our Department of Employment!

Yours faithfully,
DENIS MACSHANE MP,
House of Commons.

Letters to the
Business and Finance
section of The Times
can be sent
by fax on
0171-782 5112.

GOLD FIELDS COAL LIMITED

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)
(Registration No. 01/01124/06)

DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND

The company has declared an interim dividend No. 164 of 50 cents per ordinary share in South African currency, payable to members registered at the close of business on 25 June 1995.

Dividends will be electronically transferred to members' bank or building society accounts on 2 August 1995 or, where this method of payment has not been mandated, dividend warrants will be posted to members on 1 August 1995.

Standard conditions relating to the payment of dividends are obtainable at the share transfer offices and the London Office of the company.

Requests for payment of the dividend in South African currency by members on the United Kingdom register must be received by the company on or before 23 June 1995, in accordance with the above-mentioned conditions.

The register of members will be closed from 24 June 1995 to 30 June 1995, inclusive.

per pro GOLD FIELDS CORPORATE SERVICES LIMITED

London Secretaries

8 J. Dunning, Secretary

London Office and Office of

United Kingdom Registrar:

Gold Fields Corporate Services Limited

Greencoat House

Francis Street

London SW1P 1DH

Head Office:
75 Fox Street
Johannesburg 2001
Republic of South Africa

8 June 1995



Bid speculation lifts shares

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Bid speculation lifts shares

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

| High | Low | Company | Price | Change | % | PE |
|--------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|--------|--------|-------|------|
| BANKS | | | | | | |
| 100.00 | 99.50 | Barclays | 100.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 12.5 |
| 98.00 | 97.50 | HSBC | 98.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 11.0 |
| 95.00 | 94.50 | London & Lancashire | 95.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 10.0 |
| 92.00 | 91.50 | Midland | 92.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 9.0 |
| 89.00 | 88.50 | Natwest | 89.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 8.0 |
| 86.00 | 85.50 | Paragon | 86.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 7.0 |
| 83.00 | 82.50 | Prudential | 83.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 6.0 |
| 80.00 | 79.50 | Royal Bank of Scotland | 80.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 5.0 |
| 77.00 | 76.50 | Santander | 77.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 4.0 |
| 74.00 | 73.50 | TSB | 74.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 3.0 |
| 71.00 | 70.50 | Yorkshire Building Society | 71.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 2.0 |
| DISTRIBUTORS | | | | | | |
| 100.00 | 99.50 | ABN-Amro | 100.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 12.5 |
| 98.00 | 97.50 | ABN-Amro | 98.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 11.0 |
| 95.00 | 94.50 | ABN-Amro | 95.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 10.0 |
| 92.00 | 91.50 | ABN-Amro | 92.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 9.0 |
| 89.00 | 88.50 | ABN-Amro | 89.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 8.0 |
| 86.00 | 85.50 | ABN-Amro | 86.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 7.0 |
| 83.00 | 82.50 | ABN-Amro | 83.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 6.0 |
| 80.00 | 79.50 | ABN-Amro | 80.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 5.0 |
| 77.00 | 76.50 | ABN-Amro | 77.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 4.0 |
| 74.00 | 73.50 | ABN-Amro | 74.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 3.0 |
| 71.00 | 70.50 | ABN-Amro | 71.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 2.0 |
| BREWERIES | | | | | | |
| 100.00 | 99.50 | Adnams | 100.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 12.5 |
| 98.00 | 97.50 | Adnams | 98.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 11.0 |
| 95.00 | 94.50 | Adnams | 95.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 10.0 |
| 92.00 | 91.50 | Adnams | 92.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 9.0 |
| 89.00 | 88.50 | Adnams | 89.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 8.0 |
| 86.00 | 85.50 | Adnams | 86.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 7.0 |
| 83.00 | 82.50 | Adnams | 83.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 6.0 |
| 80.00 | 79.50 | Adnams | 80.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 5.0 |
| 77.00 | 76.50 | Adnams | 77.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 4.0 |
| 74.00 | 73.50 | Adnams | 74.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 3.0 |
| 71.00 | 70.50 | Adnams | 71.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 2.0 |
| DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS | | | | | | |
| 100.00 | 99.50 | Adnams | 100.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 12.5 |
| 98.00 | 97.50 | Adnams | 98.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 11.0 |
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| 77.00 | 76.50 | Adnams | 77.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 4.0 |
| 74.00 | 73.50 | Adnams | 74.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 3.0 |
| 71.00 | 70.50 | Adnams | 71.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 2.0 |
| ENGINEERING, VEHICLES | | | | | | |
| 100.00 | 99.50 | Adnams | 100.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 12.5 |
| 98.00 | 97.50 | Adnams | 98.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 11.0 |
| 95.00 | 94.50 | Adnams | 95.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 10.0 |
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| FOOD MANUFACTURERS | | | | | | |
| 100.00 | 99.50 | Adnams | 100.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 12.5 |
| 98.00 | 97.50 | Adnams | 98.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 11.0 |
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| ELECTRICITY | | | | | | |
| 100.00 | 99.50 | Adnams | 100.00 | +0.50 | +0.5% | 12.5 |
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| ELECTRONIC & ELECT | | | | | | |
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Growth in advertising revenue lifts GWR

By PHILIP FANGALOS

STRONG growth in local and national advertising revenue helped GWR Group, the Bristol commercial radio stations operator, currently bidding for Chiltern Radio, to tune into more than doubled first-half profits.

The company, which also has a 17 per cent stake in Classic FM, saw pre-tax profits surge by 121 per cent to £2.06 million in the six months to March 31, on turnover ahead 90 per cent to £14.8 million.

Ralph Bernard, chief executive, said: "The growth has been fuelled by very strong growth in local advertising revenues and very considerable activity nationally."

On GWR's £19.3 million all-paper offer for Chiltern, for which Chiltern insists on a cash alternative before it even considers GWR's offer, Mr Bernard said: "We've made a very fair offer for Chiltern shareholders at an extremely attractive price." GWR has 20 per cent irrevocable acceptance and claims to have "strong indications" of support for a total of \$2.25 per cent of Chiltern's share capital. The offer document is likely within two weeks.

The interim dividend, payable on September 29, rises 37 per cent to 0.94p (0.69p), from earnings ahead 48 per cent to 2.6p (1.76p) a share.

Contact lens write-off leaves Pilkington with £248m loss

By NEIL BENNETT

PILKINGTON, the glass group, has drawn the line under its disastrous diversification into contact lenses during the 1980s by taking a £375 million write-off as a prelude to selling the business.

The massive provision against the group's Visioncare businesses dragged the group to a £248 million loss for the year to March 31. Pilkington was also hit by a £31 million settlement of a long-running legal battle in the US with PPG Industries.

The provisions masked a sharp upturn in trading at Pilkington's main glass businesses. Operating profits soared 87 per cent to £170 million thanks to a 6 per cent rise in turnover to £2.6 billion and a recovery in prices in both Europe and America. As a result the group is paying a final dividend of 2.7p a share on August 18, making 4.2p for the year, a 5 per cent increase.

Pilkington has put up for sale its hard lens and cleaning solutions businesses, which both broke even during the year, and hopes to complete the sales by the end of the year.

The group intends to retain its soft lens operations for a time to try to bring them into profit. Andrew Robb, the finance director, said that Pilkington invested around \$500 million in contact lenses during the 1980s in an effort to reduce the volatility of its earnings. But the recession and the introduction of disposable contact lenses put pressure on prices and led to heavy competition.

The group said it expected that another 1,000 jobs would



Sir Antony Pilkington, left, chairman, and Andrew Robb see profitable future in the glassmaker's core activities

be lost in its glass operations this year. Last year, it spent £20 million on redundancy payments and expects to spend a similar sum this time.

Pilkington said that sales of its building glass grew in most parts of Europe and the US as well as in South America and the Asia Pacific region. In Britain sales rose 10 per cent

and demand for the group's high performance K glass improved sharply. At Flachglas in Germany, Pilkington's largest subsidiary, profits improved through cost savings despite a continuing weakness in prices. Roger Leverton, the group's chief executive, said that the company had increased prices by 3 per cent in

the last quarter of the year. Overall, profits in Europe rose 109 per cent to £69 million, with strong performances in Britain and Scandinavia.

In the US, Libbey-Owens-Ford doubled profits to £54 million, even though one of the group's float tanks was out of operation for a time, but the most profitable division re-

mains the rest of the world, which lifted its contribution 44 per cent to £72 million.

Pilkington cut its borrowings by £142 million to £602 million in the year. Mr Leverton pledged to reduce it further, and cut gearing from 53 per cent to 40 per cent.

Temple, page 24

Greenalls sells five hotels for £9.3m

GREENALLS, the pub and hotel operator, has sold five three-star hotels for £9.3 million in an effort to concentrate on its luxury hotels, such as The Grand in Brighton. The hotels have been earmarked for disposal for more than a year. Four are being sold to Macdonald Hotels and the deal will be completed at the end of the month. The fifth was sold last month to Britannia Country House Hotel.

The hotels in Manchester, Cheshire and Warwickshire have a total of 349 bedrooms, and are being sold at an average of £26,600 per room. Last year they made profits of £1.2 million. The five are being sold for their book value. De Vere Hotels, Greenalls' hotel subsidiary, will concentrate on the 20 four and five-star hotels it owns and develop their conference and leisure facilities. As well as The Grand, the group owns The Belfry in Warwickshire.

Limit's return to fall

JONATHAN AGNEW, chairman at Limit, the largest Lloyd's corporate capital company, said the insurance market's proposed restructuring would reduce the company's expected return for 1994. Mr Agnew said Limit had expected previously to make a return of at least 7 per cent on the £502.5 million invested in the market. Mr Agnew said Limit had made a pre-tax profit of £10.78 million in its first full financial year. A final dividend of 1.75p is due to be paid on August 25.

Blick moves ahead

BLICK, the car parking systems and communications group, has almost eradicated the heavy borrowings it took on when it bought the Time and Security business from Mercury Communications for £55.8 million at the end of 1993. Group borrowings fell from £19 million to £4 million between September last year and March 31. Pre-tax profits rose by 22 per cent for the half year to March 31 to £6.1 million. The half-year dividend rises by 14 per cent to 4p, payable on September 6.

Porter returns to black

PORTER CHADBURN, the printing and packaging group, has staged a return to profits of £3 million in the year to March 31, compared with a loss of £17.2 million, thanks partly to new laws in the US which forced its customers to redesign their labels. The company cut its borrowings from £14.3 million to £3.7 million during the year after selling its consumer leisure businesses. Despite the improvement, the group is not resuming dividend payments.

Telekom forecasts trebled profits

By COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

RON SOMMER, recently appointed chief executive of Deutsche Telekom, the German state telecommunications group set to become Europe's biggest privatisation, yesterday forecast more than trebled profits this year after announcing 10,000 job cuts and lower call charges.

Telekom, which plans to float the first tranche of the company early next year to raise about DM15 billion, will be listed in Frankfurt initially. But it will also seek quotations on the London, Paris and Tokyo stock markets, Joachim Kröske, the finance director, said.

Herr Kröske said that net profits were on course to exceed DM4 billion, compared with a profit of DM1.3

billions last year and a loss of DM2.9 billion in 1993.

The company plans to cut its workforce by 10,000 this year to 220,000, with a view to reducing it to 170,000 by the end of the century.

Herr Sommer, who is keen to present Telekom as a competitive international player in the world market, said that long-distance call rates to North America were being cut by almost 30 per cent.

Call rates to Scandinavia are also being reduced by about 30 per cent.

Telekom's expects group sales to rise by 7.5 per cent to DM69 billion this year, with investment rising slightly to DM23.5 billion, its profit before taxes and state levies last year was DM7.1 billion.

Chrysalis Group issues warning

By MARTIN WALLER

CHRYSLIS GROUP, the media and music group, has notched up another loss for shareholders at the halfway stage after heavy costs of building the business — and gave warning of significantly higher operating losses for the full year.

The announcement of a pre-tax loss of £2.5 million for the six months to February 28, an increase from a loss of £32,000 last time, drove down the shares 13p to 248p, although they have been strong performers on the stock market over the past year.

There is again no dividend. Operating losses deepened from £1.40 million to £1.36 million.

Chris Wright, chairman and owner of 50 per cent of

the equity, said: "I am fully aware that people are saying, 'when are we going to see a profit'. I would like to see a profit too, and I would like to see dividends. But I do think shareholders understand and they are sympathetic to the problems."

Chrysalis has ended its buying spree, which has built up its television production business, while the recently announced intended sale of its 19.5 per cent holding in Metro Radio should bring in a significant windfall.

Analysts in the Square Mile expect a £10 million profit from the sale, but this will offset forecast losses of perhaps £6 million from the rest of the group.

Etam and Austin Reed suffer

By SARAH BAGNALL



Reed: profit worry

FURTHER bad news emerged from the high street yesterday as Etam and Austin Reed, both issued profits warnings, triggering fears that trading conditions overall are deteriorating.

Shares in Etam, the women's fashion retailer, fell 30p to reach an all-time low of 176p yesterday as the group said it would make a first half trading loss if sales remained depressed.

Stanley Lewis, chairman, told shareholders at the company's annual meeting that "although there was an encouraging trend during April,

it was not maintained, and if sales continue at current levels, results for the first half year to mid-August will show a trading loss."

Mr Lewis said there was "no quick solution" to Etam's problems but that steps were being taken to rectify the situation. This is the third profits warning from the 224-strong chain since February. In April, Etam reported a fall in profits from £14 million to £10.7 million in the year to January 28. Sales were £218.5 million, down from £220.3 million.

He added: "The unsatisfac-

tory turnover trend of last year's second half has continued into the current financial year."

At a separate annual meeting, Barry Reed, chairman at Austin Reed, the upmarket clothing retailer, gave warning that the group's interim profits are likely to fall short of last year's. The news sent the shares down 14p to 198p. Mr Reed said: "Retail trading this spring has proved extremely tough, partly in comparison with the large increase in sales a year ago and partly because of the general consumer malaise."

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UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM. The Annual Meeting of the University will be held at 11.30 a.m. on Saturday 24 June 1995 in the Union Society Dining Chamber, Pemberton Building, Palace Green, Durham. J.C.F. Hayward, Registrar and Secretary to the AGM.

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NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s.47 of the TRUSTEE ACT 1925 that any person claiming to be entitled to any of the property of the estate of any of the deceased persons whose names and addresses are set out below is hereby required to send in writing to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified, after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests which they have had notice.

NOTICE of appointment of Administrative Receiver of the business of the company, National Westminster Bank plc, 100 Broad Street, London EC2M 2EE. The Administrative Receiver is Mr. J. J. Cleave, of the firm of J. J. Cleave & Co., 100 Broad Street, London EC2M 2EE.

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INFOTECH

The feel-glove factor

Going to the Feels this evening, Henry? enquired the Assistant Prodigator. "I hear the new one at the Alhambra is first-rate. There's a love scene on a bearskin rug. They say it's marvelous. Every hair of the bear reproduced."

That quote comes from *Brave New World*, written by Aldous Huxley in 1932, and is an example of how virtual touch has long been a dream of the entertainment industry. Now the technology to create realistic tactile sensations is starting to be developed.

It is relatively easy to fool our ears and eyes with a few megabytes of broadcast data, but not our fingers. Virtual hearing has been around since recorded sound began, though nobody calls it such because radio, hi-fi and telephony were invented before cyber-jargon.

More recently, virtual worlds have come into view because of the miniaturisation of vision systems and the exponential increase in the power of data processors.

Virtual touch is the next step towards complete sensory immersion in unreality. It can be created only if the nerve endings in the

Huxley's dream of virtual touch is becoming a reality, says Max Glaskin

fingers are triggered. As yet, the most practical way of doing this is mechanically.

Ron Renzi, the leader of a research team at the Sandia National Laboratory, a government research centre in New Mexico, is working on what he calls the Feels Cyberglove. His product, which can generate the sensations of different textures, is likely to first be used in training soldiers how to dismantle weapons.

"If we're working in a virtual environment, we have to make it as lifelike as possible," Mr Renzi says. "We saw a real need for adding the sensation of touch to applications where, when you go in to grasp an object, you see your hand touching it in a virtual environment, but you can't feel it." Users will be able to feel their way around the virtual space in much the way a mime artist might appear to feel the walls of an invisible box.

The glove creates the sense of different textures, edges or a rolling motion with rod-shaped

plungers, shaped like thick pencil leads, which vibrate in patterns against the fingertips. Each plunger is made of an electro-magnet inside a steel sleeve, resting on a rare-earth magnet inside the glove.

Opposing forces between the magnets push the plunger up when the electro-magnet is turned on. When the electro-magnet is off, the attraction between the steel sleeve and the rare-earth magnet provides an automatic recoil.

"It's simple and cheap," Mr Renzi says. His team can already simulate the feeling of stone, wood and wool by combining tactile sensations with computer images of three blocks.

The team used an existing product called Cyberglove that contains a magnetic tracker to show computer images of a user's hand moving in virtual reality, and strain gauges to indicate where each finger is.

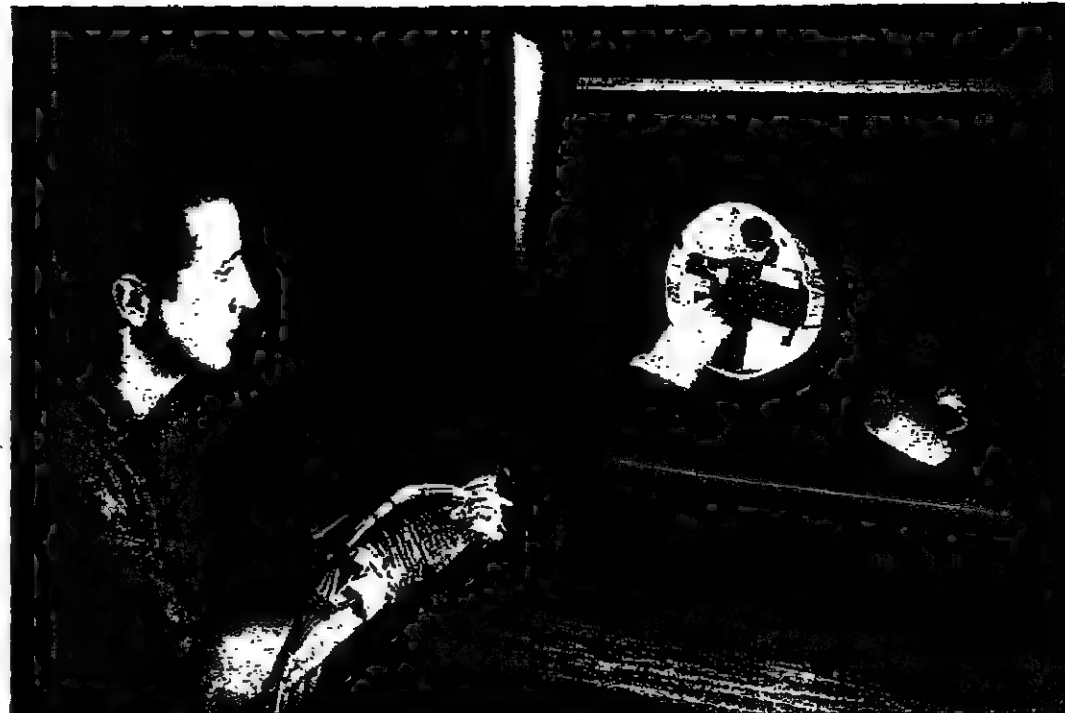
Other technologies which have been explored included an existing air bladder device that applies pressure to an entire finger. But the

team concluded that it was too crude for their needs. Before settling on magnets, the team also considered liquids that harden into gels under an electric current. They discarded the notion when they learned that the gels emit gases in the process. Pico-electric crystals also appeared unlikely candidates, since they require hundreds of volts to move.

Besides the tactile glove's potential use for training, Mr Renzi forecasts applications ranging from a virtual reality "drama suit" to computerised braille translation of texts on CD-Rom. The team is now looking at making the glove fingertips more flexible, with more vibrating points — the prototype has two rows of three plungers per fingertip.

Mr Renzi can imagine virtual reality entertainment systems that will include the sense of touch, or a time when surgeons may use a virtual-reality glove to perform surgery via satellite from thousands of miles away with the help of a robotic hand.

A more elaborate rival to the Feels Cyberglove is a tactile stimu-



Feeling his way into the future: Ron Renzi, of the Sandia National Laboratory, with a Feels Cyberglove

lator with 400 independently controlled probes that will be completed at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory at Laurel, Maryland, this summer.

It will allow simulation of most forms of tactile experience and be used for scientific research into tactile sense and new ways of

producing tactical experience. It can even be used to generate textures that are never experienced in nature.

Meanwhile, a handful of surgeons around the world are testing out a £13,000 "virtual scalpel" designed by a student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

This will give them a realistic impression of cutting through flesh.

In the interest of ecology perhaps every home will soon be able to have its own virtual bearskin rug — shot with a computer-generated rifle and skinned with a non-existent scalpel.

Super-computers will be linked to solve some of science's greatest problems, says Chris Partridge

The most powerful computers in the world are starting to be harnessed together by fibre-optic information raceways to look at problems such as understanding disease, predicting climate change and understanding how galaxies are formed.

Five super-computers in America are already beginning to work together over very high speed links, and eventually it will be possible to link computers around the world in clusters.

The network will also allow scientists to perform computerised experiments together, although they may be thousands of miles apart. The laboratory of the future is likely to consist of the world's top brains in each area sitting at terminals linked to computers and to each other.

At the moment the American network links super-computers from San Diego, in California, to Cornell University, in New York State. It is capable of carrying data, speech, pictures and video clips at a speed of 155 megabytes per second, more than 10,000 times faster than the latest personal computer modem. Speeds are intended to rise rapidly to greater than 600 mbps by next year.

The \$50 million (£31 million) network is funded by the US National Science Foundation but has been built and operated by the communications company MCI, in which BT has a 20 per cent stake.

Researchers in San Diego and Pittsburgh have used the network to link together their Cray super-computers to model global weather patterns. One calculated speeds and temperatures of ocean currents, while the other looked at conditions in the atmosphere. Swapping data every ten seconds, each computer could adjust its model to take into account what was happening in the other.

Creating the biggest brain in the world



Climate problems for aircraft will be investigated

parallel machines to get the best out of each.

Ed Barker, a consultant at Digital Equipment's super-computer division, predicts that the system will soon go worldwide. Others are not so sure. Irving Wladawski-Berger, who heads IBM's super-computer operation, believes that the economics could be wrong.

"It won't happen because if individual sites are busy they won't have the time or inclination for non-essential work," he says. "And if the problem is important enough, then funding will be found for a special installation."

The National Science Foundation is to authorise use of the

American network for applications such as modelling how and where icing occurs on aircraft and how to avoid altitudes most likely to create such problems.

In Europe, a similar network, also operating at 155 megabytes, is gradually taking shape. Brian Davies, director of computing at the Rutherford-Appleton Laboratory, Oxford, which has a Cray super-computer, believes that one of the main advantages of global clusters will be that researchers will be able to call on as much computer power as they want, almost instantly.

"The object is to create a meta-computer, where a scientist will be able to sit at a workstation on the network and, almost by putting his foot down on the pedal, bring in as much super-computer power as he needs," he says.

But the high cost of telecommunications in Europe's regulated atmosphere is holding progress back, he says.

"One of the problems in Europe is the cost of high capacity lines — it costs ten to 25 times as much to rent a 34-megabyte line to Paris as it does to Edinburgh, although it is the same distance," Dr Davies says. "In America costs are much lower."

ONLINE

New agreement for databases

MINISTERS of the European Union have agreed on legislation to offer copyright protection to databases.

Under a compromise which paved the way for agreement, database owners will not be obliged to grant licences to third parties to use their information, but the EU's rules on fair competition will be used to guard against the formation of monopolies.

"There was a legal vacuum here in the whole Community," said France's European Affairs Minister, Michel Barnier.

Game on

A NUMBER of entrepreneurs are hoping to bring the thrill of casino gambling to the Internet — an idea that may be illegal in some countries, but which is difficult to prevent across international borders.



Millions of people could boot up, log on and gamble from their homes, says Warren Eugene, an entrepreneur from Toronto who plans to open one casino.

Mr Eugene has already erected some of his Caribbean Casino on the Internet. He claims he will eventually set up his computers in the Antilles offering everything from blackjack to roulette.

It's a steal

ALMOST three quarters of people using computers at home for so-called Soho (small office or home office) applications supplement their soft-

ware by illegally copying applications from their workplace or a friend.

The allegation is made by the Federation Against Software Theft, which says that a survey it conducted showed that only 26 per cent of Soho users always legally purchased extra software. It says that such home-user theft poses an increasing threat to the survival of Britain's young start-up software companies.

Could be you

ANOTHER program promising to cut the odds in playing the National Lottery has been announced. Lottery Cracker, which costs £25 from CCC Software, based in Stockport, Cheshire, includes information on the numbers that have come up most and those that have come up the least.

Perhaps the most useful part is that it also contains an agreement to be signed by members of a syndicate to prevent any disputes over winnings.

Cashing in

A SERIES of one-day seminars is being held by London-based Maxis Online to explain how companies with Apple Macintosh computers might be able to exploit the Internet commercially. At the first seminar, which will cost £30 and takes place next Tuesday, Maxis promises to explain how much it will cost and how to start.

Investigating

THE European Commission says it has started an investigation into two satellite mobile phone consortia, one called Globalstar, the other Iridium.

The EC says that the consortia — set up to offer satellite personal communications services — needed to be assessed under European Union competition rules. The EU's competition watchdog is already vetting a rival consortium called Inmarsat-P which unlike the other two was formally submitted to it for clearance.

Infotech is edited by Matthew May. E-mail address: mat... times@delphi.com

Teach your PC speed reading

Geof Wheelwright reports on the rise of the personal scanner

Personal scanners have been a long time coming. But the many new products now being marketed could mean that thousands of users will have a tiny single-sheet scanner beside their PC and their printer.

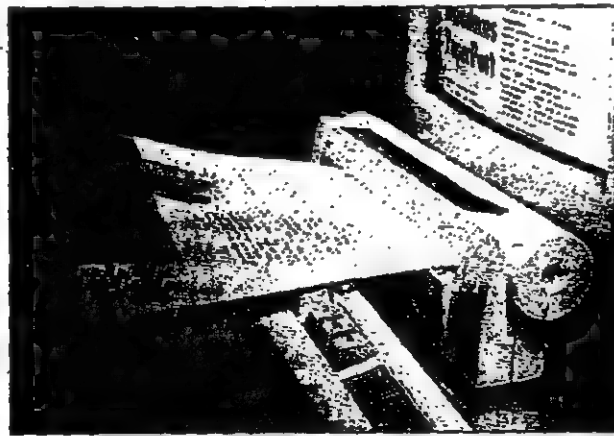
Large manufacturers such as Epson and Fujitsu now have scanners costing less than \$1,000 (£635) in America which allow users to "photocopy" images and text from paper to a computer screen.

These systems typically feed the paper into the scanner sheet by sheet — rather than requiring you to place it on a glass surface, as is traditionally the case with more expensive "flatbed" scanners.

Many PC users are considering using scanners as a solution to the urgent problem of how best to manage paper-based records. The possibilities include digital imaging, optical character recognition (OCR) and document management.

Digital imaging involves the use of computer technology to take electronic "photographs" of all your paper documents and store them as digital images on a computer's hard disk for later retrieval to your screen.

OCR, on the other hand, allows your computer to "read" the information in the documents and turn it into a word-processed file for



In action: a personal scanner linked to a PC

editing, while document management technologies tie the original image and the OCR file together so that the documents can be retrieved and managed more effectively.

A factor driving the development of personal scanners is the increasing use of personal computers to send and receive fax messages. Using standard personal computer fax modems, it is now easy to send information directly from your

computer screen to someone else's fax machine or computer — and to receive messages to your computer.

The difficulty, however, has been in getting paper documents into the computer for faxing. In order to use a fax modem to fax a legal document with signatures on it, for example, you would generally have to use a scanner to put the document into the computer first — and then use the fax

modem to send the scanned images as a fax.

The fax software market leader Delrina recently announced a version of its Winfax software with a Fujitsu personal page scanner included with the product.

According to the American research company BIS Strategic Decisions, the personal scanner is now cheap enough — and offers high enough quality — to become popular.

The scanner to get the most attention at the recent Comdex show in Atlanta came from a small American start-up company called Visioneer, which currently arranged for its \$399 (£250) Paperport 2.0 system to be installed in the press room. Hundreds of journalists put a fleet of the machines through their paces during one hectic week.

One big difference between Paperport and existing scanning products is that it provides direct links to more than 50 desktop applications, such as OCR, fax and document management.

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The great gamble to be a high-flyer

As the pace of change in technology increases, it is a wonder anyone can keep up. Updated releases of software packages are hitting the market every six to 12 months, while new operating systems and chips are on the way. Even the language in which applications are written is changing with the gradual adoption of object-oriented technology.

The programmers, application developers and systems designers who are leading the transition from old technology to new are faced with the constant dilemma of how to keep their skills up to date. The market is glutted with training courses, but for the independent contractor or ambitious employee investing at his or her own expense they can be costly.

Those willing to take the plunge need to combine a touch of clairvoyance with business knowledge to try to predict the technology wave of the future. But these "job surfers" who risk their own time and money to acquire the skills that might be needed next year can earn up to £80,000 a year if they get it right.

Jane Barber on the fast pace of change in technology and the difficulties of keeping up to date

Terry Hall, a consultant at Nationwide Technology, a PC and network recruitment agency, says that there are only a handful of people able to predict what the next big thing in the market will be and train up in those skills.

Currently, the top posts in the industry are those calling for skills in the German accountancy system SAP, which can pay between £70,000 and £90,000 per year for a permanent post, while SAP contractors can earn up to £20,000 a week.

Mr Hall sees technology changing in a six to 12-month cycle, so that those wanting to catch the wave to top salaries will have to predict which packages and sys-

tems will be favoured by businesses in spring 1996.

One of the best-paying areas used to be with the installation, configuration, set-up and design of Lotus Notes software. "Now that most businesses have gone through that process, the earning potential is mostly gone in the market," says Mr Hall who predicts that becoming qualified in Microsoft's operating system, Windows 95, could be the next goldmine.

Mr Hall gives a warning against paper qualifications based purely on theory. He advises those looking to train up to go for courses with a high content of practical experience. "You may not only spend time and money learning a skill that falls flat on its face, but be left with redundant skills. You have to choose between high risk, high earnings or waiting until the products get established in the market."

Nick Simons is a self-employed contractor working as a project manager in the energy and insurance industries. He plans to invest his own money in a copy of Delphi — a programming language for Windows released by Borland ear-



Terry Hall: "There are only a handful of people able to predict what the next big market thing will be and train up in those skills"

lier this year — because his clients are expressing an interest in the product. "It's going to cost me around £200, which is less than a day's training," he says, "and I want to know what Delphi is capable of." Mr Simons is particularly interested in learning Delphi's object-oriented features, because it is a new player in a

market which industry giants such as IBM, Oracle and Microsoft are moving into in a big way.

Object orientation is the technology for developing computer systems that emphasise modules and the re-use of software components. Contractors experienced in object-oriented techniques can earn up to £1,500 a week.

Caroline Naylor, a project manager at a department store, had problems staffing her latest project to replace the company's retail systems. At the end of last year she was looking to build a development team skilled in the latest version of the database Oracle 7, and Forms 4, a user interface.

Even when the highly sought-after contractors were located, there were other problems. "They only wanted short-term contracts, they didn't want to commit themselves to the next 12-month project. Three months was all they needed to hop on to the next project," she says. Ms Naylor finally opted to train her own in-house team at an average cost of £1,800 per person.

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■ CLASSICAL 1

Could this be the new face of serious British music? Thomas Adès speaks his mind



■ CLASSICAL 2

A sensation in Cardiff: Nuccia Focile's first Violetta is one of the great debuts

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ CLASSICAL 3

... while at Covent Garden the brilliant new tenor, Roberto Alagna, dazzles in recital



■ CLASSICAL 4

American music, familiar and unknown, is wheeled out by the RPO under Andrew Litton

Prodigy with a notable talent for sounding off

Is Thomas Adès the saviour of British music? Richard Morrison meets the young composer whose work is suddenly everywhere

A young composer in a hurry is a spectacular sight. Thomas Adès, 24 this year, sits in a tiny top-floor London flat that bursts with signs of his prolific impatience. Hundreds of manuscript pages of his first opera, *Powder Her Face*, are casually dumped on the sofa; dozens more, not yet fully scored, rest on a massive easel. A grand piano (goodness knows how that got in) is strewn with more bundles of things creative.

"At the moment", Adès says, "I am concerned to cover as much ground as possible with my flag. It's almost a colonial thing. English music has recently been notable for many things — primarily, incredible craftsmanship — but perhaps not for emotional breadth. That worries me a lot."

Grave words from one so young. Adès speaks in a rush. His face twitches in several different directions at once. His hands regularly flutter down to the ever-ready cigarettes. If this is genius (a major talent from whom we can expect much) — *The Guardian* "astonishingly accomplished" — *The Times* "embarked on a brilliant career" — *The Sunday Times*, then it is genius working pressissimo *molto agitato*. If it isn't, then it is the biggest piece of arrogance and pretension to hit British culture since Damien Hirst picked his first fish.

"I don't actually listen to much new music by anybody else," Adès announces during our conversation. On the basis that a man may be judged by the company he keeps, I ask him who his friends are. "Oh, musicians and novelists, almost exclusively," he replies. Not composers? "I don't tend to see other composers, for everybody's sake." Asked to name the composers he most admires, he cites Bach and Conlon Nancarrow, an obscure American eccentric.

Why, though, does Adès need to be falsely chummy to his competitors? He has already been showered with honours. As a teenage pianist he prospered in the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition. Three years at King's College, Cambridge, culminated (naturally) in a starred double-first in music. Now he is composer-in-association with the Hallé Orchestra, and will

be writing a piano concerto for the opening of Manchester's new concert hall next year.

Meanwhile, his music is everywhere. Tonight you may hear his string quartet *Armadillo* at the Spitalfields Festival. This weekend his "hit" orchestral piece, *Living Toys*, is played at the Aldeburgh Festival, which is later devoting an evening to "Thomas Adès and Friends" (the musician friends, presumably, not the novelists).

Powder Her Face, the opera, is premiered at the Cheltenham Festival

6 I don't actually listen to much new music written by anybody else

next month, then immediately staged at the Almeida in London. Yet another recent Adès piece will be featured at this summer's Proms. So it goes on.

Who produced this prodigy? Adès's mother is Professor of Art History at Essex University; his father is, according to Adès, an "extraordinary linguist" (he does things like translate *Miss Joan Hunter Dunn into Latin*). The surname is French-Archie. But is there music in the family?

"My parents aren't really musical, no. I don't know how all that happened. But when it did, it completely took me over. What did his parents think of that? The implication was that if one was going to do music professionally, one had better do it at a very serious level."

Indeed, the piano was the first thing that the boy Adès became seriously good at. Composition came later. Adès says that he wrote "nothing of any significance" until he was 19. I ask what prompted him to start, and receive a startling sermon by way of reply:

"I was, I am afraid, dissatisfied with a lot of modern music. That's the honest answer. If you are going

to be up to date, it is difficult to avoid sounding angst-ridden — you know, filling your music with terror. That is not really a good play for survival. On the other hand, I would much rather do that than compose religious aromatherapy. There is far too much of that already."

So what is the Adès play for survival? "I believe that there is another way: a new music that's truthful, and that gives people succour without giving them lullabies. The modest thing of mine at the Proms this summer... but all shall be well — is aimed at this very point: soothing if people want to be soothed, but not pretending there's nothing wrong."

That sounds promising, but it would be futile to pretend that Adès, for all his current status as darling of the music establishment, is writing pieces that are notably user-friendly. His method of composition is to start with a sequence of notes or chords and then work out "sheets and sheets of permutations" derived from that sequence. Although he claims to "trust the ears for the first three or four moves", the method doesn't sound all that different from the mathematical aridity of 1950s serialism.

Moreover, he expects listeners to concentrate and pick up the "aural connections". Is that realistic? After all, there is now an enormous comprehension gap between the avant-garde professionals and the vast bulk of music-lovers. "I think it is," Adès says with unswerving confidence. "Quite honestly, in my new opera there are more immediately absorbable connections on first hearing than in Berg's *Lulu*."

And this breathtaking comparison with one of the century's towering masterpieces brings us to discussion of *Powder Her Face*. It is all about the life, sensational divorce and decay of that favourite Scarlet Woman of Stiles Britain, Margaret, Duchess of Argyll. Or is it?

"Not exactly," Adès says. Clearly, I am being simplistic. "It was obviously inspired by her life, but it's not biographical. I asked my librettist, Philip Hensher, for a story about someone encrusted with trappings, and yet disappearing inside. Immediately he said: 'The Argyll divorce'. But of course the woman who has been abandoned is the



Thomas Adès, surrounded by work in progress: the new opera has taken most of a year to write

classic operatic protagonist, from Monteverdi onwards."

This sounds perilously close to suggesting that *Powder Her Face* will put an over-intellectualised gloss on a damn good yarn about sex, scandal and headless men. And it is scarcely reassuring when Adès announces that the libretto "bristles with literary allusions, many of which I didn't understand at first. What hope for us mortals, then?"

Nor will his score be short of quotations. Without prompting, the composer declares that it will in-

clude reminders of Stravinsky's *Rake's Progress*, Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier*, Berg's *Lulu*, Schubert's *Death and the Maiden*, Mussorgsky's *Songs and Dances of Death* and Verdi's *La traviata*. "But they all emerge naturally from my material," he insists.

Writing this opera has taken almost a year, during which Adès has composed nothing else. Or at least, not on paper. "An opera is so self-contained that I have been able to dream up things for the next few years," he confides. "They are in my

head at the moment. But I have the shapes, the temperature." I descend from his attic uncertain as to whether I have met the new Mozart or the latest in a long line of promising British composers whose careers peaked around the age of 21. Let's hope for the former.

Thomas Adès's music can be heard tonight at the Spitalfields Festival in London (0171-371 1362), during the next fortnight at the Aldeburgh Festival (01728 453543), and in July at the Cheltenham Festival (01242 227579) and Almeida Theatre (0171-359 4404).

CONCERT

Bland of the brave

RPO/Litton Barbican

THE Royal Philharmonic's two-part celebration of American music opened on Wednesday with a concert that promised more than it delivered. The conjunction of Piston, Copland, Griffes, Barber and Gerstwin was seductive on paper, but the programming and, to some extent, the performances were anodyne.

The focus is very much on the Europeans among the Americans: *An American In Paris*, swaggering away under the enthusiastic orchestral traffic-direction of Andrew Litton; Barber at his most balmy and urbane; Walter Piston and Charles Griffes unashamedly stung by the spell of Francophilia at its most dulcet. One began to long for the anarchy of an Ives, the rasp of a Rorem, the mind of an Elliott Carter. There is so much more to American music, after all, than street processions and lazy verandahs.

The rocking chairs certainly swayed hypnotically in Sylvia McNair's sensuous and languid performance of Barber's *Knoxville: Summer of 1915*. We were left in no doubt that the setting of James Agee's prose-poem was deepest Tennessee: heat hung heavy in the orchestra's wrap-around (and sometimes slightly hazy) ensemble.

A heat haze also hovered over Griffes's 1916 tableaux *The White Peacock* — one which seemed to live in a Persian garden not a million miles from Giverny — and over the passing show of Piston's suite *The Incredible Flutist*. It may have lacked the costumes and choreography of its first Boston Pops performance in 1938, but dogs barked, orchestral voices — human and instrumental — greeted the circus, and a solo clarinet *Sidliana* prepared the ear for what was to come.

Emma Johnson was the soloist in Aaron Copland's *Clarinet Concerto*. This was by far the most substantial work of the evening but, for all the technical accomplishment of its performance, it failed to come alive.

HILARY FINCH

OPERA: Verdi turns to gold as a new star is born; and a fast-rising tenor shines in recital

Love at first sight of Focile's Violetta

Those who were at the Welsh National Opera's revival of *Traviata* on Wednesday will even now be preparing to bore their grandchildren in years to come with memories of Nuccia Focile's first Violetta. It was a simply sensational debut.

The young Italian soprano has for some years been singing Mozart and the lyric-colouratura repertory in Europe, recently graduating to Tchaikovsky's *Tatyana*. She first appeared with WNO as the bewitching Nannetta in Peter Stein's production of *Faust*, and has made a wise choice in returning to the company for her first attempt at Verdi's heroine.

The late Göran Järvelid's supremely intelligent production, crisply revived by Robin Tubbott, is rich in detail and dynamic, use of accent and dotted rhythm, everything she does in the service of the composer. She is also a stunning

La traviata
New Theatre, Cardiff

musical director, Carlo Rizzi led a thrilling performance, striking an ideal balance between near-romantic expressiveness and spine-tingling dramatic thrust: the much-loved score came up as though fresh-printed, and the musical performance had obviously been painstakingly prepared.

Focile has all the top notes for Violetta, and the agility, but the strength of her voice lies in her richly coloured middle register. Her response to the Italian words is extraordinarily positive: every line is given its due dramatic weight, shaped and projected so that notes and words become an indivisible entity. Variety of dynamic, use of accent and dotted rhythm, everything she does in the service of the composer.

She is also a stunning



The stunning Nuccia Focile as Violetta in *Traviata*

physical performer, using body language to portray a hard-nosed, cynical tart in the first act, and managing the transformation to tender, loving woman, with complete conviction.

Thereafter Violetta's every

emotion — from hysteria to defiance to scrupulous calm at the moment of death — is reflected as much in her expressive features as in notes and words. This is already an absolutely heart-rending impersonation, and what it will

be like in five years one scarcely dares to imagine.

Ultra-purists might jib at Paul Charles Clarke's occasionally wayward tuning, but it stems, veristically, from his believing and thinking every line that Alfredo sings. What with this, and Focile living each moment of her role, we were spared nothing of the pain and anger in a work that can all too easily slip over into the world of Mills & Boon.

Jason Howard plays Germont as a kindly family GP, which makes his moral blackmail all the creepier, and he sings powerfully. All the smaller roles are well taken, none more so than Dorothy Hood's exceptionally vivid Armina, a sour-faced bitch in the second act, a loyal nurse and guardian in the third. This *Traviata* in a thousand is on tour over the next month, and no effort should be spared to catch it.

RODNEY MILNES

Quality shines out through Gallic gloom

Roberto Alagna
Covent Garden

might not have needed them, but the audience would certainly have found it helpful.

Alagna showed at his best as Halévy's *Éléazar* in the aria *Rachel, quand du Seigneur*, with the central plea carrying those head tones the tenor controls so exquisitely. *Éléazar* refuses to convert to the Christian faith; Goumud's Polyucte agrees and goes to his death. The Act IV aria may give the tenor an opportunity to show off, but it is a dull piece. Donizetti's *Polliuto*, which deals with the same

subject, has much more vigour and would have suited Alagna better in a first half that was rather too full of gloom.

After the interval came Italian opera, and here Alagna struck top form from the start. Oronte's *La mia letizia* from Verdi's *Lombardi* had a real throb to it and was followed by Faust's dream of peace from Boito's *Mefistofele*, which produced probably Alagna's best singing of the evening with its refined legato.

Phrase was linked to phrase with

the suavely of the true lyric tenor. Ah si, ben mio (from *Traviata*) got most popular applause, but an aria from *Il pirata* proved that Alagna should stay with Bellini while before moving on to Mascagni.

Bertrand de Billy provided the rest periods with some overtures and the intermezzo from *Cavalleria Rusticana*. Alagna's resources are such that he scarcely seemed to need them as he launched into the encores, starting with *Lionel's Ark*, so from from *Flower's Martha* sang, all credit to him, in German.

Werther's *Pourquoi me réveiller* followed and demonstrated that this must be one of Alagna's future stage roles. An injection of Massenet into the first half of the programme would have worked wonders.

JOHN HIGGINS

THE TIMES
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Senior Account Executive

THEATRE 2

How can the RSC's audience take Shakespeare's cock-eyed *Measure for Measure* at face value?

Frustrated by their own fame

Alun Armstrong, Frances Barber, Jack Klaff and Ian Hogg in *Insignificance* at the Donmar Warehouse

nature of reality is often raised, most entertainingly by Barbra's Actress, who launches into an excited little lecture on relativity theory for the benefit of its discoverer. Fame, celebrity and the frustrations they bring are, however, more immediate and pressing concerns, for in Einstein, DiMaggio and Monroe we have archetypes of, respectively, brain, brawn and beauty. Johnson does not have anything especially original to say about the characters' malaises, but he does

sometimes bring their feelings of insufficiency to life: His play, for all its pretensions, seems to me the best when at its least abstract: when Armstrong's Professor is inwardly debating whether he has the will and energy to get into bed with Barber's Actress, or she is rueing her failure to have a child, or Klaff's DiMaggio is promising to try to read the odd book. At such moments the revival seems worth it.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

King James would have liked it

THE contemporary suspicion that many of our legislators are rogues and hypocrites does not hand us a useful key to open this unpalatable play. Angelo's corruption is certainly at the heart of its mystery: the Duke's deputy, hitherto chaste, lusts after the sister of the man he has condemned to death, and offers to trade her virginity for her brother's life.

The brother's crime is fornication, and we can just about imagine a society where this offence is capital. We are watching Shakespeare, after all, where characters often profess the strangest superstitions, and we bear with these for the shafts of wisdom and thrilling phrases that come elsewhere.

But in order to grope our way into Shakespeare's dark vision we are asked to look at us as if we were the appalling and unfathomable Duke. Michael Reast plays him in Steven Pimlott's RSC production (first seen at Stratford last year) who are soon at a

Measure For Measure

Immediately after this she kisses him on the lips, which gives no clue to her feelings except that she may be in shock. Stella Gonet's faint lip in her first scene emphasises the girlish naivety that her subsequent ordeals will sweep away, and the confrontations with Alex Jennings's stiff Angelo are exceptionally well staged. He skilfully paces the declaration of his lust, from rectitude through evasive hints to the coarse demand, returning to propriety as he stalks off.

On a set by Ashley Martin-Davies that effectively doubles as prison and court of justice, the other roles are clearly presented, with Barry Lynch's foxy Lucio speaking for sensuality yet displaying the only untainted affection in the play. Shakespeare punishes him more severely than anyone, putting a morbid seal on a cock-eyed work. I daresay King James applauded.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Michael Feast as the "appalling and unfathomable" Duke

[illegible]

100



POP 1

D:Ream count the cost of being pin-ups to the teenybop brigade — and try to go all serious



POP 2

No reining in of eccentricities as Björk releases a second album every bit as good as *Debut*

THE TIMES ARTS



POP 3

Van Morrison eases off on the Celtic melancholy for his fine new *Days Like This*



POP 4

The questionable Therapy? add a subtle touch of helicopter and gunfire noise to their latest oeuvre

It's a tough job, but someone's got to do it. Serious musician Peter Cunnah tells Alan Jackson about his exposed life as a teenybop idol

D:Ream topping for breakfast

On Peter Cunnah's table-top lies the latest questionnaire to be faxed to him by an inquisitive journalist. This one is from a tabloid newspaper and begins innocuously enough: "Which is your favourite book?" But the force behind the hit band D:Ream has enough experience of the press to know when he is being lulled into a false sense of security. A-ha! Scanning down the list, he soon comes to the nitty-gritty: "When and where did you lose your virginity?" How distant seem the days when pop stars were encouraged to be enigmatic, to cultivate an air of mystery.

At the more highbrow end of the market, they can still sneak by without revealing their shoe size, inside leg measurement and the ingredients of their best recipe. Increasingly, though, the fans know all. For example, Take That's current album, *Nobody Else*, may have been presented as a move towards a more grown-up audience, but the band's official fan club magazine ("The ONLY mag with the TT seal of approval"), and a snip at £2.35 continues to offer such photo-sequences as a water fight between Gary and Mark, clad only in transparent Calvins.

Meanwhile, Cunnah, a thoughtful 28-year-old from Londonderry, finds himself at something of a crossroads where the media is concerned. He is only too appreciative of how helpful teen appeal can be to a fledgling career. D:Ream had little profile to speak of until they landed as engagement act on a 45-date Take That tour late in 1993. The resultant exposure meant a ready audience for *Things Can Only Get Better*, the band's gloriously up-beat

release of the following January. Within days it was No 1, remaining there for a month. But the price paid for such exposure can be high. Suddenly you are regarded as fair game for exploitation: a bendy toy to be pushed and pulled into whatever positions a hungry pop press feels will best excite the readers. "I looked at the photo shoots of all the beauty boys, the poses that go with the territory, and just played it for what it was."

Reaction to the songs is just a front for sexual attraction. It feels strange

Cunnah says. "You learn by copying — almost by mocking — what's gone before. But it can get ridiculous. I was asked my worst nightmare, and I replied: 'Eating flesh'. So someone came up with the idea of sandwiching my hand between two slices of bread and having me pretend to eat it. I find it quite patronising — the relentless attempts to stimulate kids who are going through puberty."

All of which means that a balancing act must be pulled off by his PR at East-West Records. "I filter endless requests," says Shane O'Neill, Cunnah's press officer. "The situation is made even more difficult by the fact that I have a professional relationship with the various magazines and with Peter himself. Also, there's only limited space in

his diary, so basically you're looking to spread the message without compromising him or committing him to the cheesier things that are offered."

"Luckily, because D:Ream came out of the club scene, he has an in-built credibility and we've been able to encompass titles like *Q*, *NME* and *Melody Maker*. Increasingly, though, we're keen to do things where Peter comes across as the person he actually is, not as what some teen title might want him to be."

But further complicating the picture is the singer's own determination to play the pop game with the minimum of pretence. "Prince may be able to carry off that Master of Mystique act, but it's the total opposite of what I'm attempting," Cunnah says. "I'll answer anything within reason, and be as honest as I can. That way, you don't leave room for skeletons to be uncovered. Sometimes it backfires, though. My folks weren't too happy about an occasion when I was asked if I'd done drugs and I said that of course I had, being a clubgoer and someone in a dance band. Even so, I think I should speak the truth."

But however weird the experience of facing a conveyor belt of up to 16 different journalists a day in London, Munich and Madrid, that of being catapulted from small venues to stadiums full of Take That fans is stranger still. A great opportunity, certainly. Unlike rock crowds, most of whom stay in the bar until the headline act is about to appear, teens are in their seats from the off, anxious to squeeze every moment of excitement from their Big Night Out. Which means they'll willingly practise their screams on the support act — if they prove

sexy enough. "Anyone competent could do it," Cunnah says. "It's about the person, not the music. Reaction to the songs is just a front for sexual attraction. But yes, it feels strange to be its object. You realise you've turned into a pop star."

Shoot me with your Love, the new single released next week and taken from D:Ream's forthcoming second album, *World*, proves again that the teen crowd was right in its assessment — Cunnah makes an excellent pop star. Propelled by the same energy

and optimism that made *Things Can Only Get Better* so difficult to resist, the song will be inescapable on the airwaves in the coming weeks.

Meaning that the prurient may find themselves wondering just how our latter-day George Washington answered those two questions. Relax. His favourite book is Martin Amis's *Time's Arrow*. And he lost his virginity, aged 19, to a nurse in Greenwich, south-east London. "Somehow I felt I was in safe hands, what with her medical training."

Optimum's gone to Iceland

NEW ALBUMS: Björk goes one better than her glittering *Debut*; Van the Man cheers up at last

BJÖRK

Post (One Little Indian TPLPS1) THE success of Björk's first solo album, *Debut* — two Brit awards and a million copies sold — was all the more impressive for being so unexpected. No one could have accused the Icelandic chanteuse with the voice as sweet and sour as summer fruit of trying to be anything she was not.

A lot more is riding on the follow-up, and it is to Björk's credit that she has ignored the temptation either to rein in her eccentricities or create some impenetrable monument to the indie avant-garde.

Her delivery encompasses a range of conflicting emotions,

while conveying a constant sense of wonder and adventure. "I'm going to prove the impossible really exists," she insists on *Cover Me*, while a harpsichord delicately battles against the sound of an electrical storm gathering in the distance.

Her songs are built like crazy paving, carefully placed together out of unlikely, angular musical shapes, and on *Enjoy* and *Headphones*, both co-written with man-of-the-moment Tricky, she puts her

own unique spin on the trip-hop experience.

Another brave and compelling collection, *Post* suggests that Björk has both moved at her own speed and kept up with the times.

VAN MORRISON

Days Like This (Epic/Polydor 521 307) "WONT let the bastards grind me down," Van Morrison vows, repeatedly, on *Raincheck*, one of many fine songs on his new album. And, while a couple of tracks — *Melancholia* and *Underlying Depression* — explore the gloomier side of his muse, for the most part he sticks to his resolve, producing some of his most vibrant work for many years.

The horn section, brilliantly arranged by saxophonist Pee Wee Herman, features prominently, lending warmth and colour to the expansive, Celtic-soul sound of *No Religion*. Perfect fit and the title track. And singer Shana Morrison duets effectively with her dad on a couple of blues/jazz standards, *I'll Never Be Free* and the old Ray Charles hit *You Don't Know Me*.

But ultimately, *Days Like This* is an artistic and personal triumph for Morrison himself. Rarely has he been captured in better humour or voice.

THERAPY? *Infernal Love* (A&M 540 379) HELICOPTERS, gunfire, an explosion fading into a smash-and-grab guitar riff and then a lyric that begins: "Here comes the misery, yeah yeah". It could be Deep Purple. Iron

Maiden or Guns N' Roses. But this is the start of a track on the new *Therapy?* album, a collection that finds the Irish trio retreating from the speedy, punk aesthetic that made their last album, *Troublegum*, such an irresistible piece of work, towards a more conventional, nouveau heavy metal approach.

As before, there is some pretty depraved imagery: "You rammed Eros maggots down my throat/Until I choked." Andy Cairns sings on the charmingly titled *Bowels of Love*. And there is a handful of good tunes, including a sombre version of Hüsker Dü's *Diane*, arranged for cello and strings. But tracks such as *Jude the Obscure*, *Bad Mother* and *Loose* sound ponderously overwight, and the album lacks the manic sense of purpose and flat-out urgency that propelled its predecessor to the heights.

GARY MOORE

Blues for Greeny (Virgin 7243 8 40507)

THE idea of Gary Moore, a man renowned for his overbearing and bombastic style, applying himself to a collection of songs by Peter Green, the most sensitive blues guitarist Britain has ever produced, does not sound like a marriage made in heaven.

But it turns out that Moore's appreciation of Green is more than skin deep. *Blues for Greeny* finds the Irish axe hero imitating Green's uniquely sad, soulful sound with an accuracy that borders on the eerie. *Long Grey Mare*, *The Supernatural* and *The Same Way* are dispatched efficiently enough, but the slower numbers, in particular *Merry go Round* and *Love that Burns*, produce performances of startling intensity.

DAVID SINCLAIR

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- 1 *Pulse*.....Pink Floyd (EMI)
- 2 *Sting*.....Alison Moyet (Columbia)
- 3 *Sting*.....Paul Weller (Go! Discs)
- 4 *The Colour Of My Love*.....Celine Dion (Epic)
- 5 *Nobody Else*.....Take That (RCA)
- 6 *A Spanner In The Works*.....Rod Stewart (Warner Bros)
- 7 *Natural Mystic*.....Bob Marley & The Wailers (Tuff Gong)
- 8 *Tuesday Night Music Club*.....Sheryl Crow (A&M)
- 9 *Picture This*.....Wet Wet Wet (Precious)
- 10 *Big Love*.....All Campbell (Virgin)

Compiled by MRS

'Retro' rockers are better than the originals, says Caitlin Moran

Days of future past

OK, I'm going to make an absurdly totalitarian statement, and then I'm going to prove I'm right: there's no such thing as "retro".

No, no, micro-chip-eyed lovers of the present and That Which is to Come, stop grinding your teeth. Your dentists are sobbing. Oh, I know all the arguments — that for the past 15 or so years, pop has been eating itself; that we are constantly raking over the embers of that mythical Golden Age of Music and blowing on them, until the dull glow bursts into flame and catches fire in the Top Ten. (Incidentally, when was the Golden Age of Music? If you're over 40, it was the 1960s; over 30 and it was the 1970s... all my over-25 mates think it was the early 1980s. All Golden Ages are tied to the music that coincided with your leaving home; I have a soft spot for the early 1990s.)

I know which bands are being exhumed and body-snatched — the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Pink Floyd, Paul Smith, the Buzzcocks, the Kinks, T. Rex, David Bowie, the Smiths and, more recently, the Stranglers and Wire. I even know who took the bodies — the Boo Radleys.

Elastica, Oasis, Suede, Blur, the Stone Roses, Primal Scream and Teenage Fanclub. They've all been fingered in music writers' kangaroo courts of plagiarism, and found guilty of indulging in retro, paying homage to pop's past while slacking off creating pop's future. *Elastica* ripped off the Stranglers' *No More Heroes* for *Waking Up*. Primal Scream's *Loaded* is just *Sympathy for the Devil* with a dance beat. Blur half-inched everything they know from early Floyd and Kinks; and the Boo Radleys' very souls are in hock to the Beatles.

So what? I listened to *No More Heroes* and *Sympathy for the Devil* and the rest, and, quite frankly, the oldies should be grateful. In every case, those accused of theft have come up with something better than the original. They've improved on something that was mere-

ly a blueprint, rather than the finished article.

The main point to be got across here is: why should a certain strain of music die with its creator? Just because Paul McCartney was the first person to think of capturing the sound of early morning sex in brilliant harmonies (the intro to *Lovely Rita*), why should he be the only one, and the last?

The Boo Radleys simply did it better with *Wake Up, Boo!* There is no such thing as "plagiarism" or "retro" — we should think of it more in terms of continuing a line of thought.

This happens in every other walk of life — philosophers quote other philosophers who've been dead for more than 2,000 years. Now that's retro. "Borrowing" a chorus from a record released 20 years ago is just cross-pollination.

That isn't to say slack-jawed idiots who thoughtlessly and brutally plier from the past should be canonised for their laziness: this is merely a call for a cessation of sniping at those songwriters and bands who are adding to pop's future by listening to and extending pop's past. We should be grateful that they are so brave.

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مكتبة النور

Langer leads while Daly warms crowd

FROM MEL WEBB IN HAMBURG

FLYING objects were spotted hurtling round the skies here yesterday, small and white, they were travelling like shells. The man with his finger on the trigger of the rocket-launcher was a stocky, powerful individual with the hint of a world-famous haircut returning. John Daly was back, and the local bird population took cover.

Daly's personality, if not the sheer quality of his golf, illuminated a wet, windy and workaday first round of the Deutsche Bank Open, a tournament that is also acting as the resurrection of the Tournament Players' Championship of Europe, moribund for the past five years. Daly suffers from no such identity crisis. He knows exactly who he is and is obviously rather enjoying it.

He had nothing more spectacular than a level-par 72, which left him five shots off the pace being set by the inevitable Bernhard Langer, but the reception he got from the good burghers of Hamburg could not have been any warmer had he scored ten shots fewer.

Daly says he is more content with his lot since he fought a winning battle with the devil drink. The American is an engaging fellow who enjoys a rapport with his audience for which some of his fellow professionals would give up their favourite sand-iron. It is tempting to ask: Why?

"I've made some mistakes in my life," he said. "Life goes beyond golf and probably everybody goes through troubles at some time in their lives. I've been through it, and that's why I think people relate to me." One thing is certain — few mortals can relate to the vast distances he hits a golf ball.

others — Greg Norman, Severiano Ballesteros are good examples — the ability to entertain whether he is shooting a 64 or a 76.

This time he had two birdies from close range and two bogeys when he found water hazards. From others it would have been mundane stuff. From Daly, it was utterly absorbing.

Langer, meanwhile, took the lead with a 67 that was as effortless as it was commanding. If he wins this week, it will be his eighth victory on German soil, so nobody would be very surprised.

In miserable conditions at Gut Kaden he was put under some pressure by Jamie Spence and Costantino Rocca, who finished on 68, one in front of Emanuele Canonica, Mats Lanner, Peter Baker and Ignacio Garrido.

Rocca heard yesterday that there will be no last-minute invitation from the United States Golf Association (USGA) to play in the US Open next week after a mix-up regarding an exemption he thought he had won.

Kent Schofield, the executive director of the European Tour, confirmed that it was extremely unlikely that there would be a last-minute change of heart. Disappointed and still angry, Rocca said little, but let his clubs do the talking. Four birdies in the last six holes made his point for him.

Spence was once spoken of as a Ryder Cup prospect, but has declined alarmingly in the last two years. He could do with a good day this week — he has just splashed out £250 for his season ticket at Arsenal. He says he sees only about ten games a season. Quite enough for most people, one would have thought.

Scores page 38



Gordon Sherry plays his second to the 2nd green during his morning match

Fanagan holds his nerve

BY JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Michael Bonallack, the secretary of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, asked Jody Fanagan what he did for a living, the reply was startling. "I bury people," Fanagan, who works for the 150-year-old family business of funeral directors in Dublin, replied with a steady stare.

In his first two rounds of the Amateur Championship at Royal Liverpool, Fanagan was nearly buried himself. He won his first match at the 19th, after being two down with two to play, and his second after being two down with five to play. In yesterday afternoon's third round, he beat Mark Foster, the English amateur champion, by two holes.

Fanagan beat Alan Reid from Barrie in the morning — "Fanagan and Allen," as one said — in a match that was played at a far from funeral pace, as was Fanagan's match against Foster. The Englishman levelled at the 16th with a cautious five, only to fall behind at the next.

The 17th at Hoylake is a glorious hole that demands both nerve and precision to find the green and even more nerve to go for the flag with the road at the back of the putting surface out of bounds. Foster and Fanagan were both just short in two. Fanagan hit a wringing pitch to six feet and holed; Foster hit a pitch and missed. Fanagan, who is one of the Walker Cup squad, will now play Marcus Wheel-

house, the impressive New Zealander, in the first match this morning.

Play was very slow yesterday and the Royal and Ancient warned the remaining competitors that the maximum time allowable for 18 holes will be three hours and 57 minutes. The warning was welcome, but unfortunately a day late.

Even allowing for another day of strong wind, a day on which the course played to its full 7,000 yards, matches were averaging more than 4½ hours, which is far too slow for a matchplay event where both players do not always complete each hole. One competitor took 1m 52sec to play his stroke from the middle of a fairway.

More spills than thrills as cycling comes to town

I would have been terrific if I had had a programme, perhaps that is an overstatement. It would have been more interesting had I known who was who, whence they came and what was their form... but then what we witnessed between 7.30 and 8.45 on Wednesday evening in Aberdeen was not presented for our delectation but to provide an edited Sky television programme for transmission later that night.

We who have a pair of eyes miss out against those with six camera positions and the ability to edit and cross-cut. As I tell folk who complain about Sunday trading, going to the shops on the Sabbath is not compulsory, a sentiment which applies also to watching Grand Prix City Centre cycling.

I did. I shall not do it again, though it may make compulsive viewing.

What happened was that, soon after 6pm, they erected barriers to section off a 1km circuit. After that Aberdeen became a city divided: if you are in Union Street, which has Pizzalano on one side, Wimpy on the other, you have to make a decision as to where to take your stance: a bit like choosing between tennis elbow and housemaid's knee.

I took the Pizzalano side and regretted it. I shall not go back to Pizzalano. The grand prix starts outside the Music Hall, the 50-odd riders, race clockwise, take a sharp right into the cobbled Huntly Street, where they pass the "weekend entrance" to St Mary's Cathedral, turn right into the steep, smoothly macadamised Skene Terrace that has a Unitarian Church and three speed bumps; at each of these you can hear riders invoke the deities, though not always the same one.

Past a shoe shop called Kafka, another sharp right brings the peloton to the edge of the Wallace statue, which shows the Guardian and Patriot three times life-sized standing on 20 feet of granite. On the

base is inscribed: "Go back to your masters and tell them that we came not here to treat but to fight and set Scotland free." Words said to English friars sent to negotiate a pacific treaty before the battle of Stirling Bridge.

Wallace was put to death by Edward I in 1305 "solely for his love of liberty and his fidelity to his native land." I expect you know that. It is written on the other side of the statue.

Albert, Queen Victoria's husband, resized and hag-

There are not enough of us to make a noise anyway, we are not applauding. Plugs follow for Cycling Weekly, which I endorse for their man gave me a lift from the airport. Rover cars, who provided the car in which I was given the lift Ambrosia Desserts, whose man was handing out blue flags inscribed "Enjoy Ambrosia Desserts" on weatherproof paper. Gratitude also, *inter alia*, was extended to Aberdeen City Council, who supplied the barriers and sponsored the police.

Not knowing who was who or rode for what confines this account of city centre cycling to the loudspeaker commentary: Rob Holden won, Joe Bayfield came second, and during the last three laps, they were a bicycle-length apart and shouting abuse at each other.

Roger Hammond, contestant No 46, sat next to me on the flight north, gave me his white T-shirt bar from the British Airways plastic tray because he has decided to eschew chocolate and briefed me about the sport: his bicycle cost £3,000, weighs 17lb, contains no steel but has carbon fibre wheels, an aluminium matrix frame, an aluminium chain, a carbon fibre seat post. He is 21, offered me his picture in which he crouches by his bike above the words World Champion Junior Cross 92.

Hammond rode nicely in the peloton for 58 minutes, was coming up on the penultimate lap but finished way back. There had, according to the commentator, been a serious crash involving people not revelling in the conditions and I fear he was involved.

"It really is a real thrill," the commentator said, after which I made my way to the station. At Quick Snacks opposite platform six I paid for and would have eaten a meat pie, had this not been unavailable to pedestrians. I shall not go to Quick Snacks again.

FREUD ON FRIDAY

gard, watches from a nearby plinth. He is cast sitting down, looks like a man in the passenger seat who would have preferred to drive. Just up the hill to the cyclist left on the stretch to Union Terrace are statues of Burns and Edward VII.

The commentator, who can be heard only near the start-finish line, speaks with the breathless voice used by some men of his profession. Every commonplace is uttered as if it were startlingly unique, voice raised at the end of most phrases. He is keen on alliteration: "Roddy Riddle is really revelling in this wet circuit." He missed "rainy". It was raining. Revelling is the man's big word. He also feels it is his duty to quote the litany of sponsors at regular intervals.

"A hundred pounds like makes the sun sound like serious money" to the rider of the fastest lap is given by a Mr Smith, a local solicitor. Let us hear your applause."

TODAY'S FIXTURES

| CRICKET | Other matches |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| First Cornwall Insurance Test match 11.30, second day of first, 80 overs minimum. HEADINGLEY: England v West Indies. Britannia Assurance county championship. 11.0, second day of four, 110 overs minimum. CHERMOR: Devonshire v Northamptonshire. CHELSEA: Essex v Durham. GLOUCESTER: Kent v Gloucestershire. OLD TRAFORD: Lancashire v Gloucestershire. NOTTINGHAM: Nottinghamshire v Worcestershire. | 11.30, first day of three. PSNERS: Cambridge University v Middlesex. |
| FOOTBALL | WOMEN'S WORLD CUP (in Sweden) |
| TOULON INTERNATIONAL UNDER-21 TOURNAMENT: Group A: Scotland v Scotland (Bologna, 6.0); France v Mexico (Autogiro, 6.0). | Group A: Brazil v Germany (Parlatto, 6.0); Sweden v Japan (Norrstern, 6.0). |
| OTHER SPORT | EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP (in Sweden) |
| THE OVAL: Surrey v Somerset. EDMONTON: Warwickshire v Sussex. 11.0, third day of four, 110 overs minimum. BARNET: Hampshire v Lancashire. | GOLF: Amateur Championship (Royal Liverpool). MOTORCYCLING: TT Race (isle of Man). TENNIS: International Open (Bournemouth). |

YESTERDAY'S RACING RESULTS

| Beverley | Southwell |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Going: good to soft | Going: good |
| 1.15 (1m 10yds) 1. Blandford (R. Cochrane) 2.15, 2. Proud Destiny (J. J. Devine) 2.15, 3. Kilmory Bay (J. J. Devine) 2.15, 4. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood. | 1.15 (1m 10yds) 1. Blandford (R. Cochrane) 2.15, 2. Proud Destiny (J. J. Devine) 2.15, 3. Kilmory Bay (J. J. Devine) 2.15, 4. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood. |
| 2.45 (1m 3f 21yds) 1. Elementary (J. J. Devine) 2.45, 2. Goshawk (J. J. Devine) 2.45, 3. Kilmory Bay (J. J. Devine) 2.45, 4. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood. | 2.45 (1m 3f 21yds) 1. Elementary (J. J. Devine) 2.45, 2. Goshawk (J. J. Devine) 2.45, 3. Kilmory Bay (J. J. Devine) 2.45, 4. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood. |
| 3.15 (5f) 1. Eastern Promise (J. J. Devine) 3.15, 2. Blandford (R. Cochrane) 3.15, 3. Kilmory Bay (J. J. Devine) 3.15, 4. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood. | 3.15 (5f) 1. Eastern Promise (J. J. Devine) 3.15, 2. Blandford (R. Cochrane) 3.15, 3. Kilmory Bay (J. J. Devine) 3.15, 4. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood. |
| 3.45 (1m 11 20yds) 1. Alesia (C. J. Devine) 3.45, 2. Proud Destiny (J. J. Devine) 3.45, 3. Kilmory Bay (J. J. Devine) 3.45, 4. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood. | 3.45 (1m 11 20yds) 1. Alesia (C. J. Devine) 3.45, 2. Proud Destiny (J. J. Devine) 3.45, 3. Kilmory Bay (J. J. Devine) 3.45, 4. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood. |

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

When London met Surrey in the Tollemache Final, the national county teams' championship, an interesting one-suit problem arose.

| Dealer East | Love all | IMP's |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| ♠K ♥63 ♦J10853 ♣J42 | ♠N ♥E ♦W ♣S | ♠98883 ♥Q7 ♦AK75 ♠A9 |
| ♠K ♥63 ♦J10853 ♣J42 | ♠N ♥E ♦W ♣S | ♠98883 ♥Q7 ♦AK75 ♠A9 |

All Pass

Contract: Four Hearts by South. Lead: King of spades

The auction went this way at all four tables and on the lead of the spade king declarer won the ace and drew trumps in two rounds. To succeed, all declarer has to do is to avoid losing four club tricks, and if the suit is 3-3 or 5-1 there will be no problems. However, West's shortness in the majors suggests that there is a fair chance he may have exactly four clubs. If that is the case, how should you play the clubs to best advantage?

There is no clearly right answer to this question but it is certainly arguable that West's failure to double Four Hearts, coupled with East's having opened the bidding, makes it much more likely that East has A 9 of clubs rather than the Q J doubleton. (If East has either Q 9 or J 9 you are likely to guess incorrectly the suit on the second round whatever you do, and these are the only critical holdings; if East has any other doubleton you should be able to survive in comfort).

If you agree with the initial hypothesis, the right way to play the clubs is to start by leading the ten from hand. That was what Barry Rigal for London did — and was gratified to find the exact layout which made this the successful play. As one Surrey pair had led to the 8 on the first round and guessed wrongly on the next by playing to the king, the play generated a sizeable swing.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

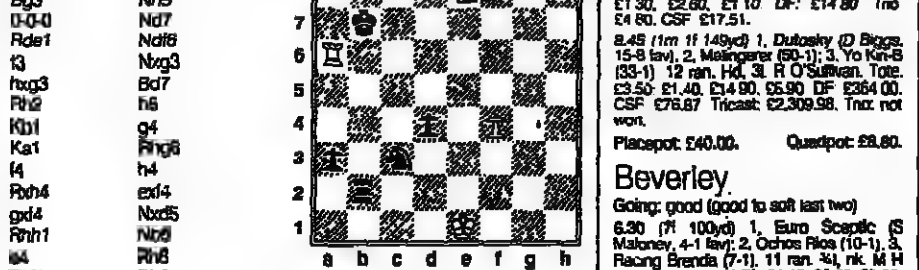
Today's game completes publication of Nigel Short's three wins against Kramnik, Gulko and Yusupov from the PCA Super-Classic in Novgorod. This was Short's best tournament result for the past two years. As in Short's win against Gulko, published yesterday, Short weathers an early attack and moves over to the offensive himself in the endgame.

White: Anur Yusupov
Black: Nigel Short
Novgorod, June 1995

Nimzo-Indian Defence

| White | Black |
|----------|-------|
| 1. c4 | Nf6 |
| 2. d4 | e6 |
| 3. Nc3 | Bb4 |
| 4. Bg5 | h6 |
| 5. d5 | exd5 |
| 6. Bxh6 | Bxc3+ |
| 7. Bxh6 | exd5 |
| 8. cxd5 | Qe7 |
| 9. Nf3 | Kd8 |
| 10. Nc2 | Kc7 |
| 11. Nc3 | Qd8 |
| 12. Bg5 | Qe7 |
| 13. Bg5 | Nd7 |
| 14. Qd1 | Nd8 |
| 15. Rd1 | Nc6 |
| 16. Rd2 | Nc6 |
| 17. Rd3 | Nc6 |
| 18. Rd4 | Nc6 |
| 19. Rd5 | Nc6 |
| 20. Rd6 | Nc6 |
| 21. Rd7 | Nc6 |
| 22. Rd8 | Nc6 |
| 23. Rd9 | Nc6 |
| 24. Rd10 | Nc6 |
| 25. Rd11 | Nc6 |
| 26. Rd12 | Nc6 |
| 27. Rd13 | Nc6 |
| 28. Rd14 | Nc6 |
| 29. Rd15 | Nc6 |
| 30. Rd16 | Nc6 |
| 31. Rd17 | Nc6 |

White resigns



Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Wednesday's late results

Folkestone

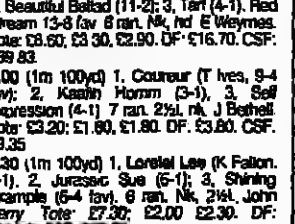
| Going: good |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.15 (1m 10yds) 1. Chief of Staff (M. L. Devine) 1.15, 2. Proud Destiny (J. J. Devine) 1.15, 3. Kilmory Bay (J. J. Devine) 1.15, 4. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood. |
| 2.45 (1m 3f 21yds) 1. Elementary (J. J. Devine) 2.45, 2. Goshawk (J. J. Devine) 2.45, 3. Kilmory Bay (J. J. Devine) 2.45, 4. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood. |
| 3.15 (5f) 1. Eastern Promise (J. J. Devine) 3.15, 2. Blandford (R. Cochrane) 3.15, 3. Kilmory Bay (J. J. Devine) 3.15, 4. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood. |
| 3.45 (1m 11 20yds) 1. Alesia (C. J. Devine) 3.45, 2. Proud Destiny (J. J. Devine) 3.45, 3. Kilmory Bay (J. J. Devine) 3.45, 4. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood. |

Beverley

| Going: good (good to soft last two) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.15 (1m 10yds) 1. Chief of Staff (M. L. Devine) 1.15, 2. Proud Destiny (J. J. Devine) 1.15, 3. Kilmory Bay (J. J. Devine) 1.15, 4. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood. |
| 2.45 (1m 3f 21yds) 1. Elementary (J. J. Devine) 2.45, 2. Goshawk (J. J. Devine) 2.45, 3. Kilmory Bay (J. J. Devine) 2.45, 4. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood. |
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Winning Move

By Raymond Keene



This position is from the game Khalilman - Serper, St Petersburg 1994. Here White bludgeoned his way through on the queenside with a series of sacrifices. Can you see how?

Solution on page 37

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

| PROSPENSIVE | RUM-TUM |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. Thoughtful for | a. Collywobbles |
| b. A pluperfect subjunctive | a. A racing-boat |
| c. Having an inclination | c. A honey puff |
| RHINEURYNTER | PRIMERO |
| a. A Rhine barge captain | a. A champion bullfighter |
| b. A nose bag | b. A gambling game |
| c. A German mercenary | c. A Scottish cut of beef |

Answers on page 37

EPSON

WOOD

Drills
town

Confessions of one who gave up the search

A new Carla Lane sitcom sidled onto the scene last night. Searching turned up on ITV at half past nine, and in a rare insight into the tricks of my trade, I am willing to disclose for the first time in my reviewing life. I made no notes, being transfixed by *Searching's* weird emptiness, not to mention its wilful absence of jokes. My pen hovered over the notebook for a while, then doodled idly (suns, flowers, a princess on a pony), trailed off the page, then finally dropped to the floor. Reaching down to pick up the pen, I overbalanced and tumbled off the sofa onto a plate of rice and risotto, scattering empty beer cans. Once on the carpet, I had no will to recover myself. I lay on the cold rice and sighed, while an opportunist cat clambered on board.

But that's enough about me. *Searching* was dreadful, that's the point. It affected my will to live. It concerns a "voluntary therapy

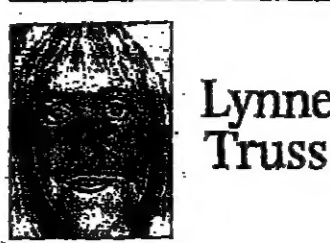
centre", run exclusively for women by a godly Pamela Scales, made to look silly with frizzy yellow hair and a big, bottle-green sweatshirt. Her clients, whose names I didn't always catch, suffer from a variety of complaints — one of them beats up men (why? Because she hates them); another sits perpetually under an umbrella claiming "It wasn't me"; and a third (who is posh, with a husband called Edgington) has a compulsion to pull communication cards. Someone for each of us to identify with, then.

The idea, presumably, is that with divine help, Scales's psychic, artist-cum-gymnast will discover these women's underlying problems and either release them from their mental torments or at least convince them that their problems are not real. But I suspect she'll be doing it without much viewer support. *Men Behaving Badly* is the only comedy on BBC1, and the British public has been

wised up to the weird world "bittersweet" for some considerable time. The best scene last night concerned a visiting hour, in which the man-hater was revealed to have a bullying father, and Edgington never turned up. But it's hard to forgive the earlier scene in which the women were discovered reading daily newspapers. The man-basher takes *The Guardian*, of course; and the posh bossy-boots takes *The Times*. Don't you just hate it when they do that?

Psychology was rife on the terrestrial channels last night. *The Mind Field* (Channel 4) was about lying, and how it is somehow very good for mental health (I will return to this); and *Inside Story* (BBC1) was another in a disappointing series of soft, human-interest films, this time about three people suffering from post-traumatic stress. Called *Survivors*, it gave us loads of dis-

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

pressing testimony from the affected people — a stabbed WPC, a survivor of an IRA ambush in Belfast, and a woman whose parents were brutally killed by her brother — but apart from making you feel very sorry for them, there wasn't much to it. Thirty minutes into the programme, we learnt that the three had volunteered for treatment; and then, before you knew it, whizz-bang, they had recovered.

The *Mind Field* was a style-conscious confection, evidently designed to banish the automatic connection between psychology and corsetry jackets with patches on the elbows. It is fronted by a handsome, Lennie Henry-like lookalike in expensive blue silks (Kwame McKenzie), who delivers his lines while striding between sheets of gauze or speaks reflected in rippling indigo water. Yawn, yawn. Last night, however, *The Mind Field* did offer some good, memorable examples of lying in action — a Groucho Club poker game of hard-bitten literal (all bluffing like mad), and some frankly confused four-year-olds twisting on their chairs. Apparently we should forget the received wisdom about studying a liar's eyes; in experience, people spot lies better when blindfolded.

What I didn't like, however, was the repeated idea that lying is normal and doesn't hurt anybody;

that beating a polygraph test is a delightful game. "Some people say lying is wrong," said Dr McKenzie quickly, "but it's in our genes." Some people? Yes, you know, weird people — as in "Some people still wear vests".

The ongoing sagas of Thursday night now include *Casualties* (BBC1), of course. Out of the grey morass of the first two episodes, characters are gradually and timidly emerging, like the first creatures crawling from primordial soup. One day David Attenborough will make a programme about them. "Here the Matthew preens in the bright sun and takes its first independent breath," the Rachel practises its distinctive call; "the Margaret wallows on the bank, sniffing".

Finally, it was a big night in *EastEnders* (BBC1) — at least, for anyone fed up with the sexual harassment of Debbie at the

bookies. Mr Dougan (Stan Chiswick) has been so repellently attentive to Debbie over the past few weeks ("Don't you love me any more?") that I actually had a nightmare about him at the weekend. Last night Debbie made her stand. "You're a dirty old man who can't keep his hands to himself, and I've had enough." Meanwhile, Alan Jackson — whose patience with step-daughter Bianca surely qualifies him for canonisation — finally located the brat's better nature. Bianca said "You're a nice man, Alan", which was big of her.

Soap operas necessarily operate on a different time scheme from the rest of us, but Pat Butcher's two-week luxury cruise commenced at Easter and has never stopped. At the risk of sounding alarmist, what's going on? Two months later, David and Ricky are still threatening each other. "Wait till Pat gets home", but it sounds increasingly hollow.

BBC1

- 3.00 Business Breakfast (33267)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (00370815)
- 7.05 Day Out. Bob Langley, Victoria Studd and Mo Dutt visit Swansea (s) (0949064) 8.50 Hot Chicks. Gâteaux d'auvergne (f) (s) (3247048)
- 9.00 News (Casualties) and weather (0055170) 10.05 Hospital Watch. The first visit of the day to Addenbrooke's in Cambridge (s) (7555285) 10.50 News (Casualties) and weather (1132286)
- 10.55 Cricknet. Live coverage of the opening session of the second day's play in the first Test between England and the West Indies at Headingley (s). With News and weather at 12.00 (2132286) 12.55 Regional News and weather (1174897)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News (Casualties) and weather (18957) 1.30 Neighbours (s) (35881625)
- 1.50 Cricknet. Further coverage of the second day's play in the first Test between England and the West Indies at Headingley (s). (0542002). Continues on BBC2. Wales: Welsh Conservative Party conference (4690267) 3.40-4.10 Broad (3726208)
- 4.45 Broad. Carla Lane's comedy about a resourceful Liverpool family (f) (s) (878335) 3.15 Guinness Ireland, Paul and Jeanne Rankin with guest ideas (s) (652)
- 4.45 Doubleback (f) (1732425) 4.10 X-Men. (Casualties) (s) (4148083) 4.35 Round the Twist (f). (Casualties) (s) (2240712)
- 5.00 Newsworld. (Casualties) (4200373) 5.10 Blue Peter. (Casualties) (s) (3263996)
- 5.35 Neighbours (f). (Casualties) (s) (449083)
- 5.50 News (Casualties) and weather (535)
- 5.55 Regional news magazines (118)
- 7.00 Hospital Watch (s) (4151)
- 7.30 Tomorrow's World. Includes a report on an operation on a paralysed man, enabling him to regain movement in his hands and fingers. (Casualties) (s) (542)
- 8.00 One South. Light-hearted drama series about a squeaky-clean Canadian Muriel working in a shop in Chicago. (Casualties) (f) (765151)

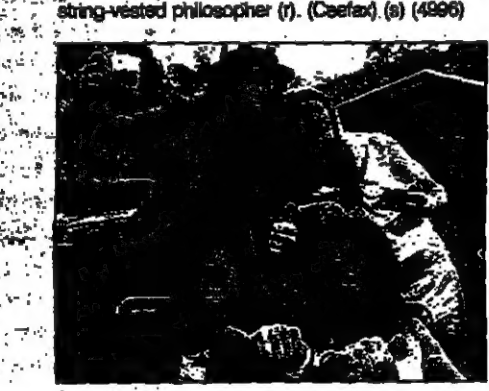


A kingfisher relaxes with its meal (8.45pm)

- 8.45 Hotshots. (Casualties) (s) (324248)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Casualties), regional news and weather (854)
- 9.30 999. Michael Barker with more reconstructions from the casebooks of Britain's emergency services. (Casualties) (s) (861915)
- 9.55 Hospital Watch (s) (103954)
- 10.55 Film: No Man's Land (1987) starring Charlie Sheen. Thriller about a young policeman investigating a stolen car ring. Directed by Peter Werner. (Casualties) (f) (7214880)
- 12.40am Hospital Watch (s) (8406923)
- 1.25 Film: Blood of Dracula (1957, b/w) starring Sandra Mordaunt, Louise Lewis and Gill Stanley. A young woman is placed under the spell of a chemistry teacher who commands her to commit a series of murders. Directed by Herbert L. Strock (525300). 1.55 Weather (189720)

BBC2

- 8.30 Open University. Plans — Design for Living (075731) 8.45 The Founding of the Royal Society (0053489) 7.10 Social Problems and Social Welfare (0199008) 7.35 Child Development: Musical Prodigies (5713151)
- 8.00 Breakfast News. (Casualties and signing) (8817088)
- 8.15 For the Love of It. Derek and Mary Manning spend their retirement on industrial archaeology (f) (7101083) 8.30 Building Better. Tony Butler cycles through Singapore (f) (7639267) 8.50 A Week to Remember (b/w) (2044488)
- 9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, 10.00-10.25 Playdays (2005489) 2.00-2.10 Joshua Jones (6957335)
- 2.15 Where the Carlew Cakes. Springtime in the North Yorkshire Dales (077608)
- 2.45 Cricknet and Tennis. Live coverage of the second day's play in the first Test between England and the West Indies at Headingley (s). and the men's singles semi-finals of the French Open in Paris (0571373)
- 7.30 The Road to Nowhere. The Eighties. The headlines and hits of 1989 — the year of Chernobyl and the bombing of Libya by the United States. Among the musical memories are numbers by Run DMC, the Pet Shop Boys and the Housemartins (f). (Casualties) (s) (844)
- 8.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (f). (Casualties) (s) (1441)
- 8.30 Gardeners' World. Includes Geoff Hamilton on a visit to the National Trust garden at Bodnant in North Wales. (Casualties) (s) (7248)
- 9.00 Rab C. Nesbitt. More wit and wisdom from the string-theorist philosopher (f). (Casualties) (s) (4996)



Mortimer and Reeves and friends (8.30pm)

- 8.30 The Secret of Reeves and Mortimer. Vic and Bob with the last in their comedy series. They are joined by Mark Williams and Paul Whitehouse. (Casualties) (s) (68267)
- 10.00 Have I Got News for You. For the last in the series Angus Deayton, Ian Harte and Paul Merton are joined by Spike Milligan and Andrew Neil (s) (30995)
- 10.30 Newsnight with Peter Snow. (Casualties) (518267)
- 11.15 The Vibe. Black music quiz chaired by Lisa T'Aronson (s) (133808)
- 11.45 Cricknet. Highlights of the second day's play in the first Test between England and the West Indies at Headingley (s) (187606)
- 12.25am Weather (2031294)
- 12.30 Film: Weekend (1967) starring Muriel Darc and Jean Yanne. A drama about an odious couple on a visit to the woman's mother in search of an inheritance. Directed by Jean-Luc Godard in French with English subtitles. (16395). Ends 2.10

VideoPlus+ and the Video Plus+ system. The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video Plus+ codes. These codes are used to identify the programme on the Video Plus+ system. The numbers next to each VCR programme listing are Video Plus+ codes. These codes are used to identify the programme on the Video Plus+ system.

Hotshots

Wildlife films are one of the glories of television and with respect to the likes of Sir David Attenborough much of the credit belongs to the camerawork. Simon King's series less us into the secrets of how apparently impossible footage is secured. Photographing the kingfisher presents particular challenges, partly because it is so quickly but also because it builds its nest well away from prying human eyes. On top of that, it dives under water to catch fish. King shows how, with ingenuity, lots of patience and the wonders of technology, all these difficulties can be overcome. Knowing how the tricks are done does not, happily, spoil the illusion. On the contrary it increases respect for the maestro behind the lens.

The World of Lee Evans

Channel 4, 9.00pm

The juggernaut comedian fills his half-hour with just one comic sketch this time and once more his inspiration seems to be largely drawn from the silent cinema. Visual humour dominates and dialogue is kept to a minimum. Mr Bean also springs to mind as the Evans character develops as a catch-all for the comedian's own private jokes. The sketch is a challenge to the comedian's own private jokes. The sketch is a challenge to the comedian's own private jokes.



David Lyon and Greg Saunders (ITV 9.00pm)

The East Anglian police drama may be departing steadily further from reality, but it continues to offer highly watchable fare. While piling even more woe on the hapless Chief Constable Cade (Martin Shaw), Susan Wilkins's script offers two stories of harassment which neatly happen to develop at the same time. The police are accused of persecuting an art dealer, suspected of a homosexual affair with an under-age councillor's son (Greg Saunders). The councillor (David Lyon) sees things differently. Meanwhile, the local MP becomes Home Secretary, determined to put an end to his wishy-washy liberal ideas.

Surgical Spirit

ITV, 8.30pm

Fears that the jolly hospital comedy was running out of ideas are being happily dispelled. Graeme Garden, doubly qualified as a professional funnyman as well as a trained doctor, is the author of tonight's episode in which Hope-Wynne's wife leaves him. A running joke of the series is that Mrs Hope-Wynne, like the unseen Mrs Mainwaring in *Dad's Army*, is not the easiest of women. So her departure is not entirely a matter for regret, particularly when the abandoned consultant soon engages a glamorous housekeeper. A reliable old buffer given splendid substance by the actor David Conville, Hope-Wynne tends to be an under-used character. It is good to see him taking centre stage and it should happen more often.

CARLTON LWTV

- 8.00 GMTV. Early morning news and entertainment (7474783)
- 9.25 Win, Lose or Draw. Quiz show hosted by Bob Mills (s) (2432480)
- 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (2043538)
- 10.00 Step by Step. American domestic comedy starring Patrick Duffy and Suzanne Somers (f) (s) (88170)
- 10.30 This Morning. Weekly magazine presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley (8115644)
- 12.20pm London Today (Teletext) and weather (1835996)
- 12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (Teletext) and weather (2374489)
- 12.55 Home and Away (Teletext) (2365880)
- 1.25 Coronation Street (f) (Teletext) (2523480)
- 1.55 A Country Practice. Medical drama series set in the Australian outback (s) (3597980)
- 2.20 Just a Minute. Nicholas Parsons challenges guests to speak for one minute without hesitation, deviation or repetition. Tony Blackburn and Richard Vane-Jones. Includes Tony Blackburn and Dale Winton (s) (1222503)
- 2.50 High Road. Drama serial set in the Highlands. (Teletext) (695915)
- 3.25 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (3775286)
- 3.35 London Today (Teletext) and weather (3774557)
- 3.50 Rosie and Jim (s) (1100064) 3.45 Molly's Gang (s) (4239482) 3.55 Taz-Mania (f) (s) (2119002)
- 4.15 Transylvania Pet Shop (Teletext) (s) (4124242) 4.40 Delicious (s) (6888880)
- 5.10 After 5 with Lorraine Kelly (Teletext) (7283083)
- 5.40 ITN Early Evening News (Teletext) and weather (427995)
- 6.00 Home and Away (f) (Teletext) (376793)
- 6.25 London Tonight (Teletext) (473083)
- 7.00 Celebrity Squares. Bob Monkhouse hosts the popular quiz game. Guests include Henry Cooper, Garth Hunt, Wolf and Cheryl Baker (s) (5847)
- 7.30 Coronation Street. A day of ups and downs for Vera and Betty (Teletext) (170)

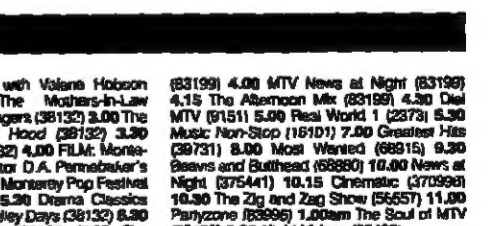


Alan Westaway searches for a biker (8.00pm)

- 8.00 The Bill: Water Wings. PC Slater (Alan Westaway) investigates a missing Hell's Angel. (Teletext) (5267)
- 8.30 Surgical Spirit (Teletext) (7002)
- 9.00 The Chief. (Teletext) (s) (1538)
- 10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (27422)
- 10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (264064)
- 10.40 Rugby World Cup 1995. The first of the weekend's quarter-final matches (801593)
- 11.10 Richard Littlejohn - Live and Uncut (s) (817625)
- 12.40am Aussie Cartoon Camera introduced by Tony Murphy (8274497)
- 1.05 The James Whale Show (f) (2200923)
- 1.25 The Chief Show (f) (73422)
- 3.00 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (s) (6434126)
- 3.25 Nola Mothers (s) (875519)
- 4.30 The New Music. Includes a visit to the 25th Earth Day festival in Toronto (17126)
- 5.30 ITN Morning News (89552). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.35 The Adventures Of T-Rex (f) (9024977)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (26828)
- 9.00 You Bet Your Life (f) (s) (44198)
- 9.30 Schooled. Euphoric (900000) 9.45 Stop, Look, Listen (900535) 10.00 Irish Writers (2051557) 10.25 Eurokids (9673557) 10.40 Off Limits (302544)
- 11.05 Schools at Work (2390538) 11.11 Time for Maths (3345170) 11.22 Stage One (3332808) 11.40 Go Sim is Carson (933480)
- 12.00 Profiles Of Nature. A wildlife documentary about North America's largest land mammal — the bison (f) (24335)
- 12.30 Sesame Street. The guests are Kevin Kline and Phoebe Cates (f) (13805) 1.30 The Magic Roundabout followed by The Wombles, Paddington and The Clinkers (f) (85170)
- 2.00 Channel 4 Racing From Epsom. On the first day of the Derby meeting Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the 2.10, 2.45, 3.15 (Vodaphone Dotted Stakes) and 4.00 (Vodaphone Oaks) races (s) (285489)
- 4.30 Fifteen To One. (Teletext) (s) (593)
- 5.00 The Wild West: The War for the Black Hills (f). (Teletext) (s) (9480)
- 6.00 Blossom. Los Angeles-based teen comedy. (Teletext) (s) (248)
- 6.30 Happy Days (f). (Teletext) (864712)
- 6.55 Terrytoons featuring Lariat Sam (293267)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext) Includes headlines and weather at 7.30 (604265)
- 7.55 Power and the People. Sheena McDonald reports on the start of a political exercise to see how the British public might vote on Britain's future in Europe (519002)
- 8.00 Derby Preview from Epsom. Lesley Graham looks forward to tomorrow's Derby, run on a Saturday for the first time since 1953. (Teletext) (s) (8808)
- 8.30 Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (5644)
- 9.00 The World Of Lee Evans. (Teletext) (s) (6064)
- 9.30 Friends. Comedy series about six single New Yorker friends. (Teletext) (s) (53335)
- 10.00 Roseanne. Wiscracking comedy. (Teletext) (s) (25064)
- 10.30 Drop the Dead Donkey. A repeat of the award-winning comedy series (f). (Teletext) (s) (884712)
- 11.05 Eurotrash. Sleazy magazine presented by Jean Paul Gaultier and Antoine de Caunes (s) (478335). Followed by Beasty Beshavfour: Honey Bee. Animation
- 11.40 Film: The Beast Must Die (1974) starring Calvin Lockhart, Peter Cushing and Charles Gray. Thriller about a millionaire who invites a disparate collection of guests to his lodge for a bizarre hunting weekend. Directed by Paul Annett (584731)
- 1.20 Film: Curse of the Weraytons (1945, b/w) starring Tod Slaughter. A melodrama about an unhinged former Napoleon who returns to England and begins disposing of his hated brother and his family. Directed by Victor M. Glover (519539). Ends at 3.05



Peter Cushing hunts a werewolf (11.40pm)

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
As London except 8.55-10.00 Anglia News and Weather (043538) 12.30pm Anglia News and Weather (185958) 2.30-3.30 12.55 Coronation Street (235880) 1.25-1.55 Home and Away (252480) 2.30-3.30 3.55 News (Casualties) and weather (1132286) 4.00-4.10 The Warehouse (252330) 4.10-4.15 The Warehouse (252330) 4.15-4.20 The Warehouse (252330) 4.20-4.25 The Warehouse (252330) 4.25-4.30 The Warehouse (252330) 4.30-4.35 The Warehouse (252330) 4.35-4.40 The Warehouse (252330) 4.40-4.45 The Warehouse (252330) 4.45-4.50 The Warehouse (252330) 4.50-4.55 The Warehouse (252330) 4.55-5.00 The Warehouse (252330) 5.00-5.05 The Warehouse (252330) 5.05-5.10 The Warehouse (252330) 5.10-5.15 The Warehouse (252330) 5.15-5.20 The Warehouse (252330) 5.20-5.25 The Warehouse (252330) 5.25-5.30 The Warehouse (252330) 5.30-5.35 The Warehouse (252330) 5.35-5.40 The Warehouse (252330) 5.40-5.45 The Warehouse (252330) 5.45-5.50 The Warehouse (252330) 5.50-5.55 The Warehouse (252330) 5.55-6.00 The Warehouse (252330) 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Frequent stoppages hamper England's efforts against fast bowlers

Atherton's class
shines out in
first-day gloom

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

HEADINGLEY (first day of five, West Indies won the toss): England have scored 148 for four wickets against West Indies

LEEDS was an inhospitable city yesterday and a Test series of momentous possibilities suffered an anticlimactic launch. In weather more appropriate to March than June, England were sustained through a disjointed, frustrating day by another recital of character and judgment from their captain, Michael Atherton. Let nobody doubt that he has now taken the final stride that separates the outstanding Test batsmen from the rest.

Atherton was spared one dilemma when he lost the toss for the fifth time in successive England games. The predictable insertion, by West Indies, simply replaced one problem with another but Atherton's batting has now assumed such stature and focus that he was able to rise above the disruptions and distractions. He had to stop and start his innings no fewer than seven times and to bat in grim light against fast bowlers finding sufficient in the pitch to keep them constantly interested. In

such circumstances, his 81 was value for twice as many; the shame for him and England is that he was out in the last ball of the day.

England may not win this first game in the six-Test Cornhill series; they may not even avoid defeat. But without the durability of Atherton they would this morning have been confronting calamity. As it is, they have their last two specialist batsmen together and the relatively safe haven of a

total above 300 will require at least one of them to bat for half of the second day.

Few conclusions can be drawn from this desolate start, through which 16,000 ticket-holders shivered and sheltered stoically. It was no day to judge a team in the field, certainly not a team accustomed to much higher temperatures. And yet it was difficult to avoid the suspicion that previous West Indian sides would have exploited the assets of bowling on such a

day. Curtly Ambrose was unlucky, as he has been more than once in recent weeks. But, extraordinarily, he remains without a first-class wicket on tour. Courtney Walsh, his colossus of a new-ball partner, was oddly desultory and Kenny Benjamin, despite his two wickets, bowled an inconsistent length and line. The three catches that were put down in the slip cordon could perhaps be pardoned by chilled fingers and reactions.

One thing, however, the touring side will rightly celebrate. Ian Bishop, bowling in a Test for the first time in more than two years, offered them respite and then real hope by taking two wickets in three balls at the tail end of the day, dismissing Thorpe leg-before from round the wicket and then producing a beauty to have Atherton caught behind.

These blows have altered the complexion of the game; they also rewarded Bishop for a day's work that strongly suggested he can be a potent force once again.

Atherton had decided he would bat first, had he won the toss, though he would not have done so without doubt. "It is always difficult here," he explained later. "Eventually you have to go with your gut feeling." Richie Richardson felt differently but, on this occasion, there may have been a protective element to his decision.

England omitted Angus Fraser to play Devon Malcolm and to justify the choice they must hope the pitch quickens up. In yesterday's third over, Atherton had time to adjust his stroke and glide Ambrose off the face of the bat for four to third man. Not every ball allowed such liberties and when Ambrose made one lift unpleasantly, Robin Smith was dropped by Carl Hooper at second slip.

Atherton needed his slices of fortune, too. But always he looked settled, whereas Smith, in his unfamiliar role, never did. A thick-edged cut against Benjamin, taken high at third slip by Richardson, brought his end after an opening stand of 52.

Hick soon began to play with the booming authority that he has previously lacked against this opposition. Three times in a stray over from Benjamin, he cut him for four and when, after two more rain breaks, he repeated the shot with great ferocity, he looked



Atherton pulls Bishop for four during a resolute display which further advanced his reputation

dumbfounded to see Campbell plunge to his right at back-point, clutching the catch two-handed.

The nature of the day was summed up in the following over. Walsh dropped short and Atherton clubbed him for four to reach his 50. Next ball, impeccable length and moving just enough off the seam, was close to unplayable. En-

gland's bowlers must locate such accuracy consistently if they are to win; they must also hope for a rise in humidity to make the ball swing, which it did not do yesterday.

Richardson, who had put down a desperately difficult chance when Atherton was 34, also missed Thorpe at third slip, though arguably he did well to lay a hand on it. It was

hereabouts, with the showers increasing in regularity, the bowlers slipping in their approach and the spectators muddling in rugs and scarves that the day verged on the farcical. "It was difficult to keep your concentration," said Atherton. "Not a very enjoyable day to be playing." Cricket, indeed, was never meant for days such as this.

Technical
misfortune
hampers
Williams
challengeFROM OLIVER HOYT
IN MONTREAL

MICHAEL SCHUMACHER is on a roll. Two successive victories behind him and the Formula One motor racing world championship seems his for the taking again as he prepares for the Canadian Grand Prix on Sunday. Damon Hill and David Coulthard, the Williams-Renault drivers who were expected to be his main challengers, are flagging in the pursuit.

But Hill and Coulthard arrived here on Tuesday not only worried about Schumacher's surge but also disturbed by the string of technical failures that are doing as much as the German's brilliance to sabotage their respective challenges.

In the 13 races that Coulthard has driven for Williams since he was brought into the team more than a year ago, he has had nine terminal technical problems. Earlier this week, it emerged that Hill's second place to Schumacher in Monaco two weeks ago, overtaken by a malfunctioning part, was the team's flawed pit-stop strategy.

Hill, who is five points behind Schumacher, drove for a full 78 laps with a locked differential, the part that governs the speed of the rear wheels as the car corners and allows the outer wheel to rotate faster than the inner. If it locks, the car tends to want to go straight on, a handicap that puts Hill's second place in jeopardy.

Neither Frank Williams, the team owner, nor his technical director, Patrick Head, would comment on the litany of problems that the team has suffered this season but Coulthard responded to his run of bad luck with characteristic sang-froid. Electronic problems killed him while leading the Argentine Grand Prix and gearbox problems brought him to a premature halt in Spain and Monaco.

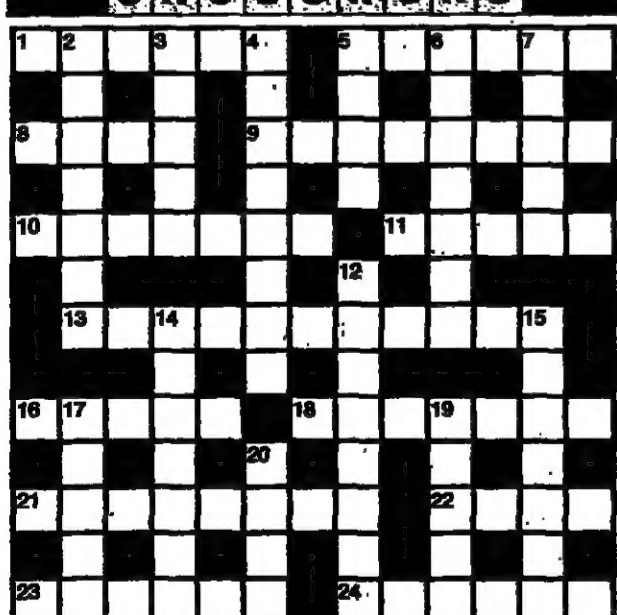
He said: "I haven't got to the stage that Jean Alesi seems to be at yet, when it looks as though blood vessels are going to burst in his face every time his Ferrari packs up."

"It is frustrating for me because I have been losing good positions to technical problems, but Williams are famous for their attention to detail and I know they will get it right very soon."

HEADINGLEY SCOREBOARD

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| West Indies won toss | |
| ENGLAND: First Innings | |
| R A Smith c Richardson b Benjamin 15 (30min, 46 balls, 1 four) | |
| *M A Atherton c Murray b Bishop 81 (214min, 145 balls, 8 fours) | |
| G A Hick c Campbell b Benjamin 18 (36min, 24 balls, 4 fours) | |
| G P Thorpe lbw b Bishop 20 (101min, 55 balls, 3 fours) | |
| T A J. Stewart not out 0 (3min, 4 balls) | |
| M R Rampersad not out 0 (1min, 0 balls) | |
| Extras (D 1, NB 1) 12 | |
| Total (4 wickets, 48.1 overs, 216min) 148 | |
| P A J. DeFreitas, D Gough, P J. Martin, R K. Binny and D E. Malcolm to bat | |
| FALL OF WICKETS: 1-62 (Atherton 31), 2-81 (Atherton 45), 3-142 (Atherton 77), 4-148 (Stewart 1) | |

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| BOWLING: Ambrose 12-3-28-0 (nb 3: 7-3-12-0, 5-0-18-0); Walsh 12-8-48-0 (nb 2: 4-1-13-0, 5-1-33-0); Bishop 10-1-8-16-2 (nb 1: 3-0-4-0, 5-1-3-0-0); Benjamin 12-4-57-3 (nb 6: 9-1-47-2, 3-1-10-0) | |
| WEST INDIES: C L Hooper, S L Campbell, B C Lars, R B Richardson, C Adams, K L T. Arthurson, T J R Murray, J R Bishop, C E L. Ambrose, C A. Walsh, K C G Benjamin | |
| Match Referee: D Lloyd | |
| Umpires: H D Bird and S Venkateswaraiah | |
| TV replay umpire: P Willey | |
| Match referees: J R Field (New Zealand) | |
| TESTS TO COME: June 22: Lord's, R K. Binny and D E. Malcolm to bat | |
| July 5: Edgbaston, July 27: Old Trafford, August 10: Trent Bridge, August 24: The Oval | |
| Compiled by Bill Frindall | |

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD

No 491

- ACROSS**
- 1 Astonishment (6)
 - 2 Travelled round on holiday (6)
 - 3 At no charge (4)
 - 4 Woodland management (8)
 - 5 Naughty action (7)
 - 6 Ball-game played with glove (5)
 - 7 Very sensitive firing device (4-7)
 - 8 Bird: Jonathan —, satirist (5)
 - 9 Look carefully at (7)
 - 10 One resigned to the future (6)
 - 11 UK's longest river (6)
 - 12 Extremely happy (6)
- DOWN**
- 1 Like a monster (7)
 - 2 Great fear (5)
 - 3 Bounces back; thinks (8)
 - 4 Coronation Hill of Irish kings (4)
 - 5 (Economic) cycle of recovery (7)
 - 6 Eagle's nest (5)
 - 7 Character sketch: portrait shaded off (6)
 - 8 Fill with air (7)
 - 9 Find use for waste (7)
 - 10 Large cetacean (5)
 - 11 Onoman high official (5)
 - 12 Gesture: symbol (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 490

ACROSS: 1 Hard-done-by 7 Envelop 8 Colon 10 Carry on 11 Levee 12 Desist 15 Waddled 17 Liana 18 Cat's paw 21 Olive 22 Trivial 23 Happy event

DOWN: 1 Haver 2 Rally 3 Depend 4 Nacelle 5 Beloved 6 Peccadillo 9 Netter-do-well 13 Stamina 14 Shake up 16 Scythe 19 Tripe 20 Print

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Inter edge
closer to
£7m Ince

PAUL INCE'S £7 million transfer to Italy took a large step nearer to becoming reality yesterday (Peter Ball writes). Manchester United and Internazionale di Milan finalised their part of the transfer yesterday morning, leaving the final decision with the players.

If it is completed, it will be a new record transfer fee for an English player. Although Andy Cole's transfer to Manchester United was originally valued at £7 million, a book value of £250,000 on Keith Gillespie makes that figure lower and, by the time the Ince deal is completed, it will exceed £7 million.

Ince is expected to fly out to Milan early next week. Last week, he said that he had no desire to leave United, but the knowledge that the club is now willing to sell him and the offer of a contract said to be worth approximately £4 million over three years are likely to sway him.

"I felt the time was right to sell when you consider the strength we have in midfield," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said yesterday. "Sometimes you have to take a step back to move forward, but in doing that we will advance the United cause."

Breaking barriers, page 38

Arsenal turn to Rioch
to revive their fortunes

BY JOHN GOODBODY

BRUCE RIOCH was yesterday appointed as the manager of Arsenal, succeeding George Graham who was dismissed in February after allegations of irregular transfer payments. After the unsettling controversies and disciplinary problems at Highbury, the arrival of Rioch, a manager during his spells as manager at Bolton Wanderers, Millwall and Middlesbrough, should settle affairs at the club, which so narrowly failed to retain the European Cup-Winners' Cup last season.

It also ends the harmful uncertainty at Arsenal, which, over the last month, had been floundering around trying to find a manager. The club failed to persuade Bobby Robson to return to England from Portugal.

However, the appointment of Rioch, 47, on a three-year contract, jeopardises the future at Highbury of Stewart Houston, who had been caretaker manager since Graham's dismissal. Rioch said yesterday he had already spoken to Houston. No 2 to Graham for five years, and told him he has "no plans" to bring in another coach "at this current moment".

Arsenal also announced that Tony Adams had signed

an extension to his contract, which, according to Peter Hill-Wood, the chairman, will keep the club captain and England defender at Highbury until the end of his career, and that Rioch has up to £10 million to spend on new players.

The appointment of Rioch, follows the pattern set by Graham, who, between 1985 and 1995, led Arsenal to their most successful period since the Thirties. Like his predecessor, Rioch is a former manager of Millwall. He also inspired Bolton to a series of cup victories over FA Cup Premier League clubs, including a win over Arsenal, then the

holders, in the 1993-94 FA Cup.

This run climaxed last season, with Bolton being promoted to the Premiership and also reaching the Coca-Cola Cup final, where they lost 2-1 to Liverpool.

Rioch said his decision to leave Bolton was a "decision made on a personal basis and also on a family basis and most certainly on a professional basis". Rioch's family home is in Harpenden, not far from Arsenal's training ground.

He said that he left Bolton with "great reluctance" and added: "Over the three years that I worked with the Wanderers, I have built a great working relationship with the chairman, staff and players of the club."

As a player, Rioch won a league title with Derby County and captained Scotland in the 1978 World Cup, before beginning work as a manager at Torquay in 1982.

Steve Coppell returned to Crystal Palace as technical director yesterday, two years after he left the club when they were relegated from the Premiership. Coppell, the former Manchester United and England player, guided Palace to promotion and the FA Cup final in 1990.



Rioch: discipline

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